FLAMING
LOVE
DECEMBER
10¢
I.C.D.
12
I SAW THE SOUL SEARING PASSION IN THE EYES OF MY BELOVED AS HE TOOK THE TEMPTRESS I FEARED IN HIS ARMS---

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH

Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Billfolds (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-A, TYRONE, PA.**

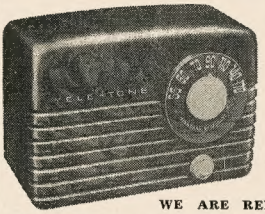
PREMIUMS-GIVEN-CASH

54th Year

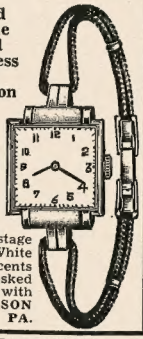
BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN — SEND NAME AND ADDRESS ON COUPON TODAY - NOW!

Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Lovable, Fully Dressed Dolls over 15 inches in height, Complete School Boxes, Pen & Pencil Sets, (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon for starting order. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-B, TYRONE, PA.**

PREMIUMS GIVEN



Send Name And Address On Coupon



BOYS
GIRLS
LADIES
MEN

WE ARE RELIABLE

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Alarm Clocks, Radios, Record Players (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-C, TYRONE, PA.**

54th YEAR

PREMIUMS - CASH GIVEN

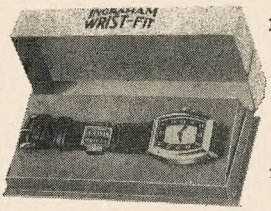
Boys - Girls Ladies - Men

Send Name And Address — We Trust You

Footballs, Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Complete Cub Fishing Outfits (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order. **Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 108-D, Tyrone, Pa.**

MAIL COUPON

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION

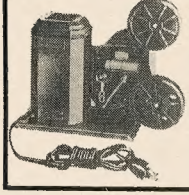


BE FIRST

ACT NOW

54th YEAR

BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TODAY



Wrist Watches, Movie Projectors with roll of film, Weather Houses, Pencil Sharpeners (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year. We trust you. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-E, TYRONE, PA.**

Mail Coupon

GIVEN

Act Now

BE FIRST

BOYS - MEN — 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles with tube of shot (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White Cloverine Brand Salve easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon today. Our 54th year. We are reliable. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-F, TYRONE, PA.**

Mail Coupon Today

WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108, TYRONE, PA. Date.....

Gentlemen:—Please send me on trial, twelve colorful art pictures with twelve boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME ..... AGE .....

ST. ..... R.D. ..... BOX.....

TOWN ..... ZONE No. ..... STATE.....

Print LAST Name Here

Write or paste coupon on postal card or mail in an envelope

FLAMING LOVE, December, 1949, No. 1. Published bi-monthly by Comic Magazines, 8 Lord Street, Buffalo, N. Y. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. Everett M. Arnold, General Manager. Harry Stein, Editor. Application for entry as Second Class Matter pending at the Post Office at Buffalo, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Copyright 1949 by Comic Magazines. Printed in U. S. A.

TYRANNY BROKE my heart

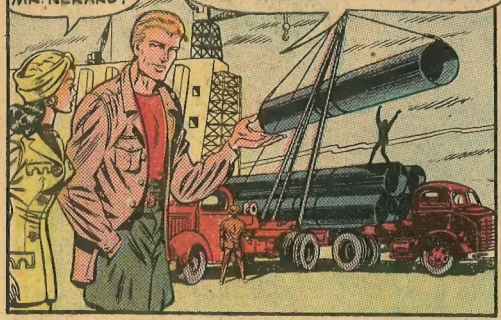
Romance crosses many boundaries and cares little about politics and the difference between nations ...but in a land where freedom was an unknown word, I found that even love can become an instrument of torture!

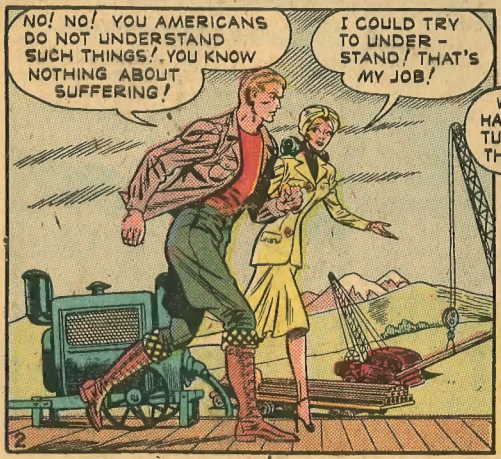
Now that I can breathe the air of liberty once more, it is possible to tell my story! But because of friends who still live in the land of which I write, I cannot call it by its real name.

My first glimpse of the land told me little! The people's faces were worn but enigmatic! My guides seemed bent on showing me the brighter side of life in their country!

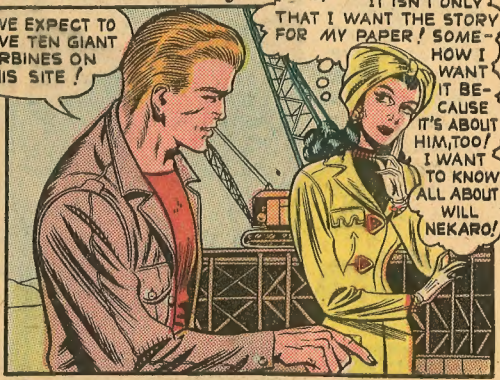
If I had thought that human beings were more interesting than dams, I was convinced of it a little while later when I met the chief engineer of the project!

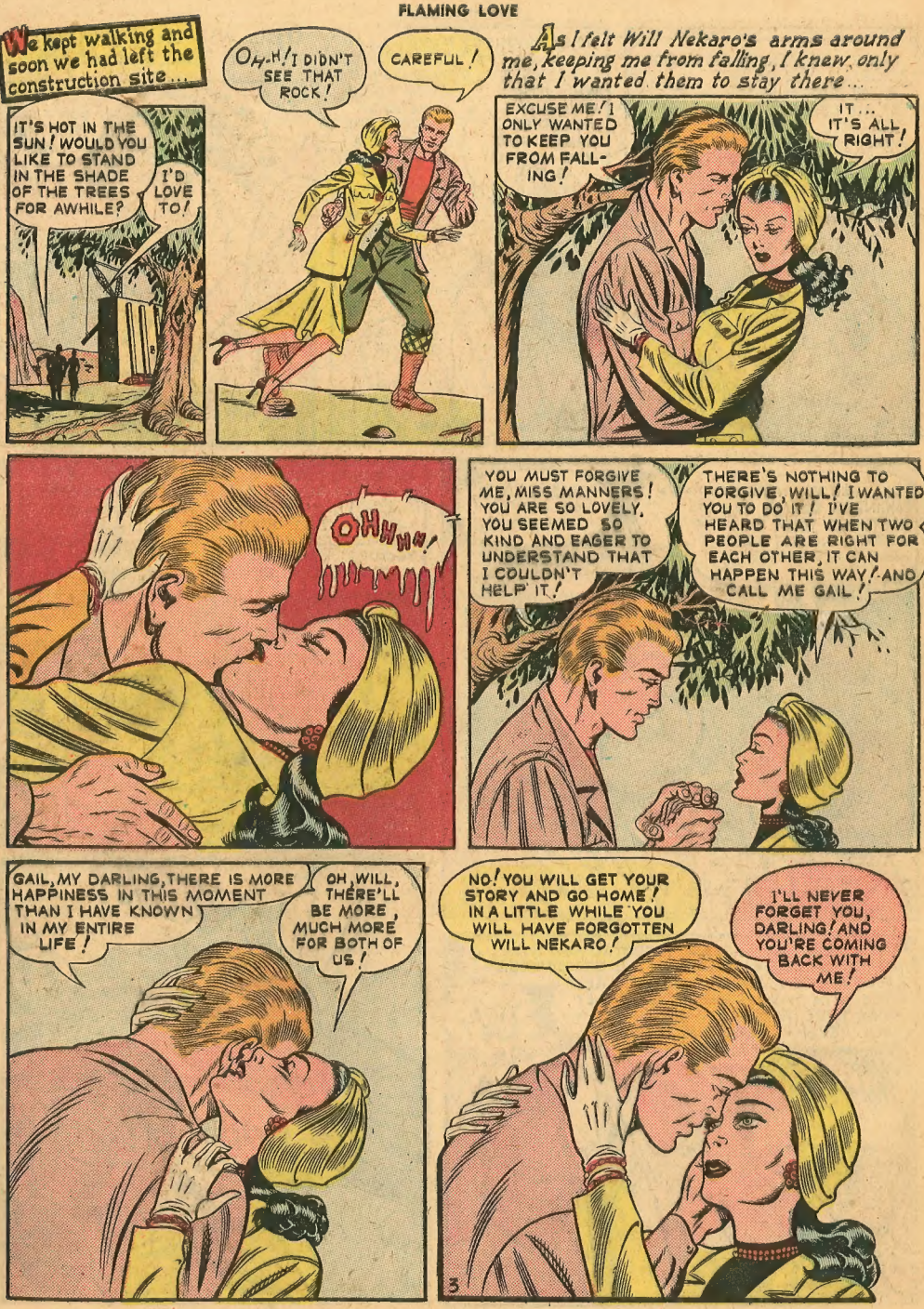
As I walked at Will Nekaro's side, I felt a new excitement...



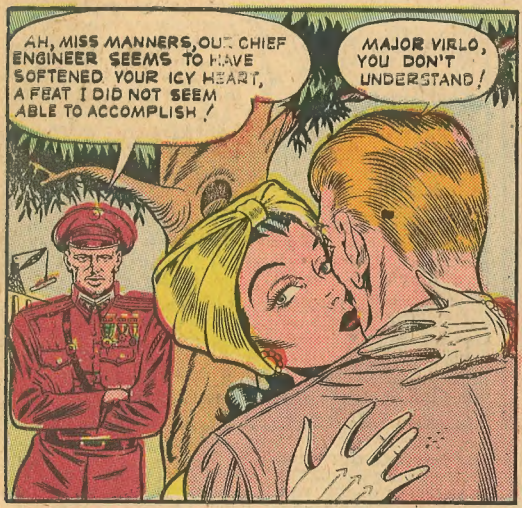


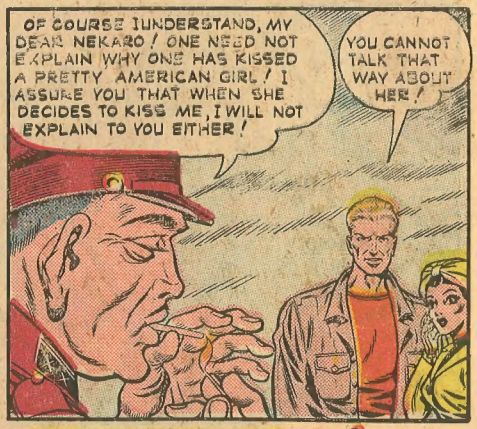
It was futile! He changed the subject and began talking about the construction job, but I wasn't listening!

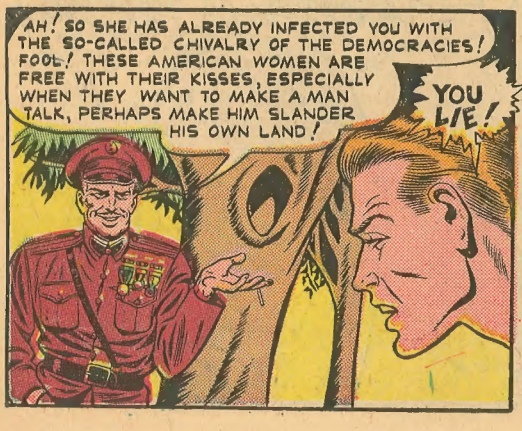



We kept walking and soon we had left the construction site...
IT'S HOT IN THE SUN! WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAND IN THE SHADE OF THE TREES FOR AWHILE?
I'D LOVE TO!
OH-H! I DIDN'T SEE THAT ROCK!
CAREFUL!
As I felt Will Nekaro's arms around me, keeping me from falling, I knew only that I wanted them to stay there...
EXCUSE ME! I ONLY WANTED TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING!
IT... IT'S ALL RIGHT!
OHHHH!
YOU MUST FORGIVE ME, MISS MANNERS! YOU ARE SO LOVELY. YOU SEEMED SO KIND AND EAGER TO UNDERSTAND THAT I COULDN'T HELP IT!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE, WILL! I WANTED YOU TO DO IT! I'VE HEARD THAT WHEN TWO PEOPLE ARE RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER, IT CAN HAPPEN THIS WAY! AND CALL ME GAIL!
GAIL, MY DARLING, THERE IS MORE HAPPINESS IN THIS MOMENT THAN I HAVE KNOWN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!
OH, WILL, THERE'LL BE MORE, MUCH MORE FOR BOTH OF US!
NO! YOU WILL GET YOUR STORY AND GO HOME! IN A LITTLE WHILE YOU WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN WILL NEKARO!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, DARLING! AND YOU'RE COMING BACK WITH ME!

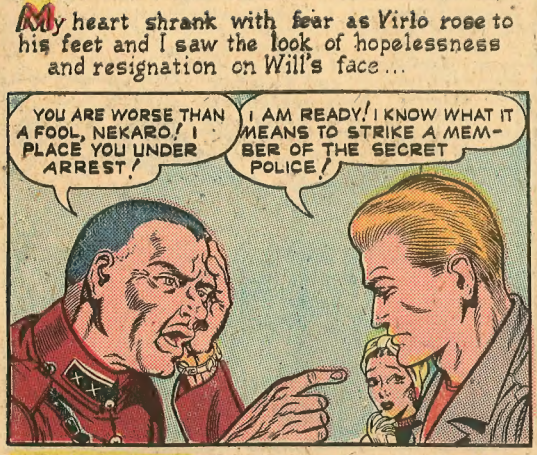
Again Will tried to plead with me but I stopped him...







My heart shrank with fear as Virlo rose to his feet and I saw the look of hopelessness and resignation on Will's face...

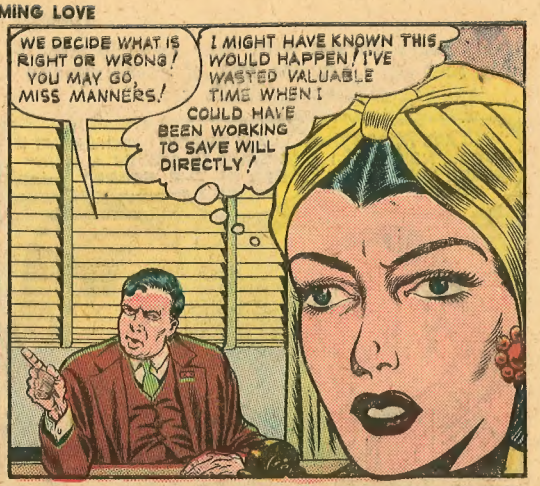


That is the way it was! Once Will had given vent to his brief display of temper, he fell quickly back into the cowed submission that comes from years of oppression!

No one spoke until we got back to the city and they let me out in front of my hotel...

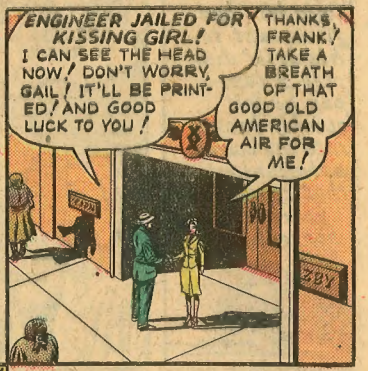
As they drove off I caught Will's eyes and the look in them spoke of a tender goodbye and the longing of love!

I rushed to the press bureau where all stories must be cleared...



As I left the press bureau, I ran into an old friend, Frank Wright, correspondent for the Inter-Ocean Press Association...

I told Frank Wright the story of my meeting with Will and what happened afterward!

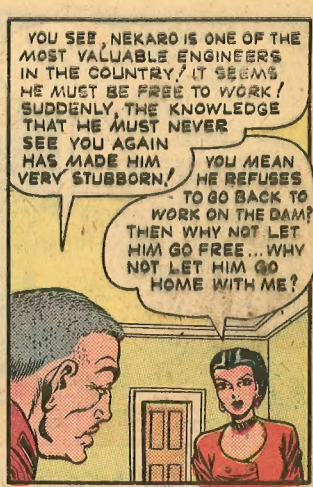


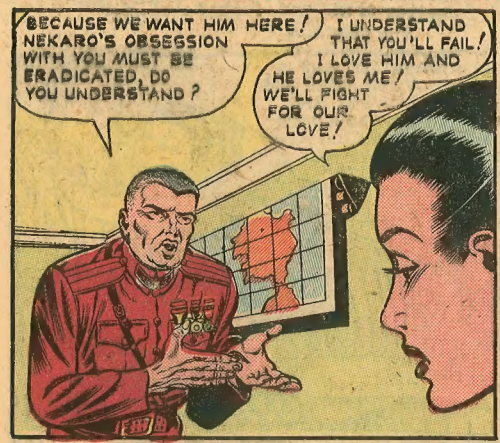
Next I went from government office to government office, arguing, begging, pleading for the man I loved! Everywhere the answer was the same!

Then one day, when I least expected it, I was summoned to the ministry of justice...

I had not been told whom I was to see, but I was led into the presence of Major Virlo...
DEAR MISS MANNERS, IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I'M SORRY I CAN'T SAY THE SAME!

HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY! THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING! AS A MATTER OF FACT MY SUPERIORS ARE DEFINITELY ANNOYED WITH DEVELOPMENTS SINCE I ARRESTED NEKARO!
WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!


YOU SEE, NEKARO IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ENGINEERS IN THE COUNTRY! IT SEEMS HE MUST BE FREE TO WORK! SUDDENLY, THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE MUST NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN HAS MADE HIM VERY STUBBORN!
YOU MEAN HE REFUSES TO GO BACK TO WORK ON THE DAM? THEN WHY NOT LET HIM GO FREE... WHY NOT LET HIM GO HOME WITH ME?


BECAUSE WE WANT HIM HERE! NEKARO'S OBSESSION WITH YOU MUST BE ERADICATED, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'LL FAIL! I LOVE HIM AND HE LOVES ME! WE'LL FIGHT FOR OUR LOVE!

HOW EASILY YOU TALK OF LOVE, MISS MANNERS! I WONDER IF YOU REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
STAY AWAY FROM ME, MAJOR VIRLO! I FIND YOU UNPLEASANT!

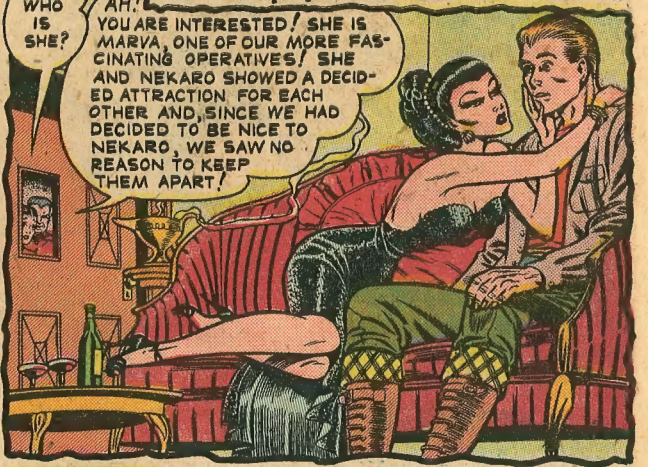
I THINK YOU EXAGGERATE, MISS MANNERS! ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M RATHER FOND OF YOU!
NO!

WILL!

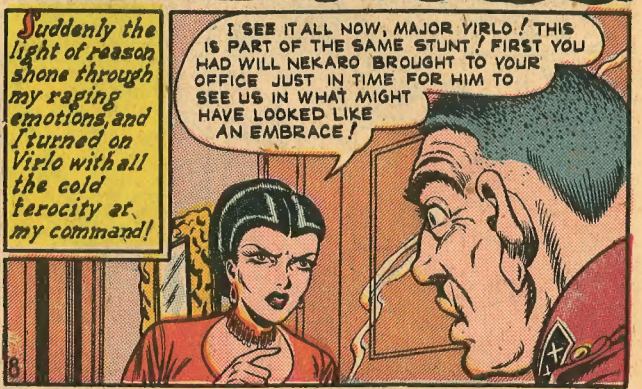
Virlo led me down a long corridor...

Horrid doubts stabbed at my heart as I turned my eyes away from the scene within the room!

Hard as I tried to resist, curiosity got the better of me and I looked through the peephole!



Suddenly the light of reason shone through my raging emotions, and I turned on Virlo with all the cold ferocity at my command!



YOU COUNTED ON HIM FALLING INTO THE ARMS OF THAT WOMAN IN DESPAIR, AND YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO SEE THAT SO I WOULD FORGET ABOUT HIM! WITH ME OUT OF THE WAY AND WITH MARVA TO PERSUADE HIM, YOU FIGURED YOU COULD BEND WILL NEKARO TO YOUR WILL!

VERY CLEVER, MISS

MANNERS! BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

THIS!

WILL, DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SEE OR HEAR IN THIS PLACE! I LOVE YOU... I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!

YOU LITTLE ...!

GET THIS GIRL OUT OF THE BUILDING! PUT NEKARO IN A CELL... UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT EFFECT THIS HAS HAD ON HIM!

More days went by, awful days in which I wondered whether Will had believed me, whether the monstrous joke Virlo had played on us had worked after all...

HOW TERRIBLE TO LOVE A MAN SO MUCH AND NOT KNOW WHETHER HE LOVES OR HATES ME!

Then a cablegram arrived, and as I read it my heart sang with joy!

WESTERN UNION
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

INVESTIGATION OF NEKARO BACKGROUND TO AUTHENTICATE STORY REVEALS HIS FATHER BECAME CITIZEN OF U.S.A. STOP THIS MAKES WILL NEKARO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN STOP OUR EMBASSY WILL EFFECT RELEASE AT ONCE STOP FRANK WRIGHT

XLLLLLL....NEW YORK TO MESSALIA.... 2:40 A EST

When Will was released, I was too busy making sure of his love to think about the grim despair that had settled over Major Virlo's face...

MY DEAREST, ONLY FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT DID I DOUBT YOU AND EVEN THEN I THOUGHT I MUST BE A FOOL!

DARLING WILL, YOU'RE FREE! WE BOTH CAN NOW BE HAPPY!

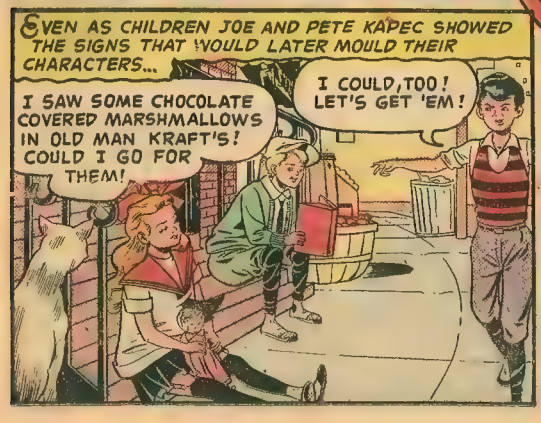
Only later did I think of Virlo again...

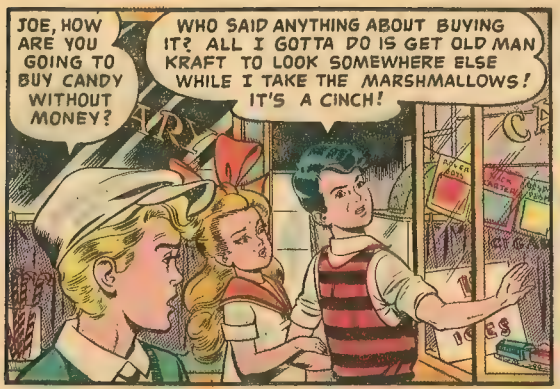
I CAN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR VIRLO! THEY'LL HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING!

IT'S A SAD REFLECTION ON A COUNTRY WHEN ONLY A ONE-IN-A-MILLION COINCIDENCE LIKE MY MEETING WITH FRANK WRIGHT CAN BRING ABOUT JUSTICE! VIRLO WILL KNOW NOW WHAT THAT SORT OF JUSTICE MEANS!

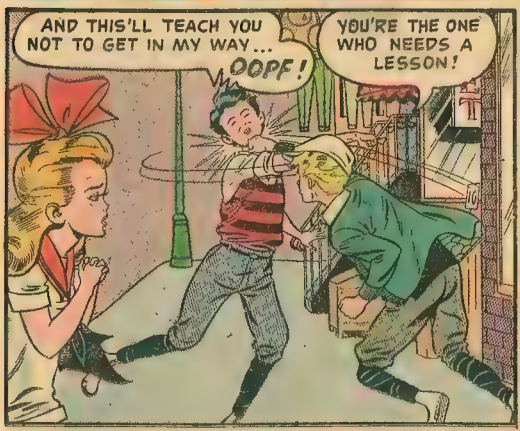
Desperate Choice

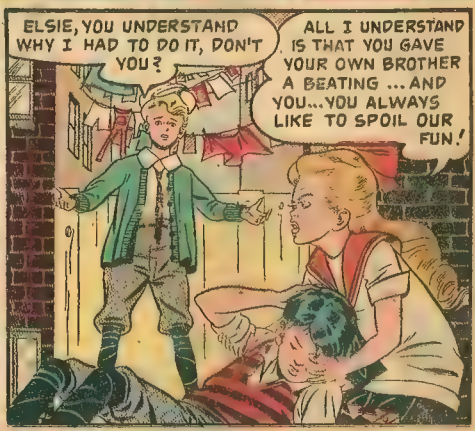
THE KAPEC BROTHERS AND I GREW UP ON THE SAME SLUM STREET AND LIVED IN THE SAME DISMAL TENEMENT! WE PLAYED THE SAME STREET GAMES TOGETHER AND FOUGHT THE SAME ENEMIES! THEN WE WERE GROWN UP AND ONE DAY I REALIZED THAT THE DESTINY OF THE KAPEC BOYS WAS INTERWOVEN WITH MY OWN! THERE WAS JOE, HOT BLOODED, WILD AND OUT TO TAKE WHAT HE WANTED FROM LIFE... AND THERE WAS PETE, PLACID, STRONG AND DEVOTED TO TRUTH AND JUSTICE! I, ELSIE DONOVAN, HAD TO MAKE MY CHOICE BETWEEN THEM!



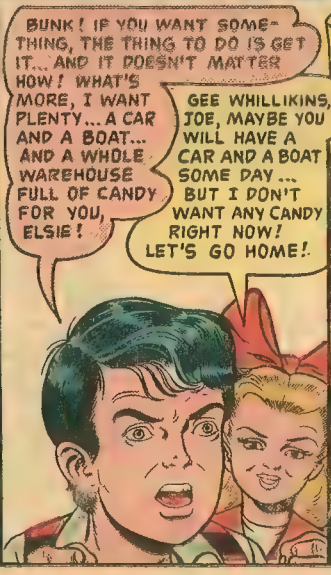

JOE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BUY CANDY WITHOUT MONEY?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BUYING IT? ALL I GOTTA DO IS GET OLD MAN KRAFT TO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE WHILE I TAKE THE MARSHMALLOWS! IT'S A CINCH!

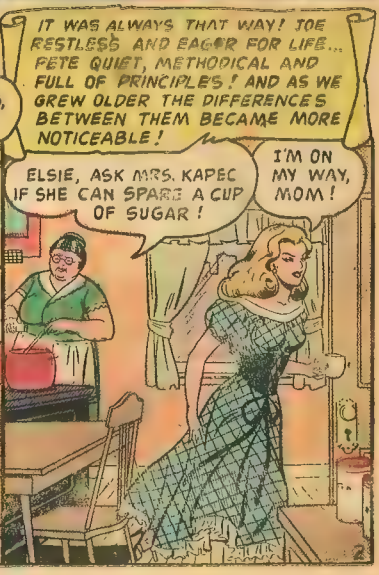
YOU CAN'T DO THAT JOE! IT'S STEALING!
LET ME GO! I'LL DO AS I PLEASE!

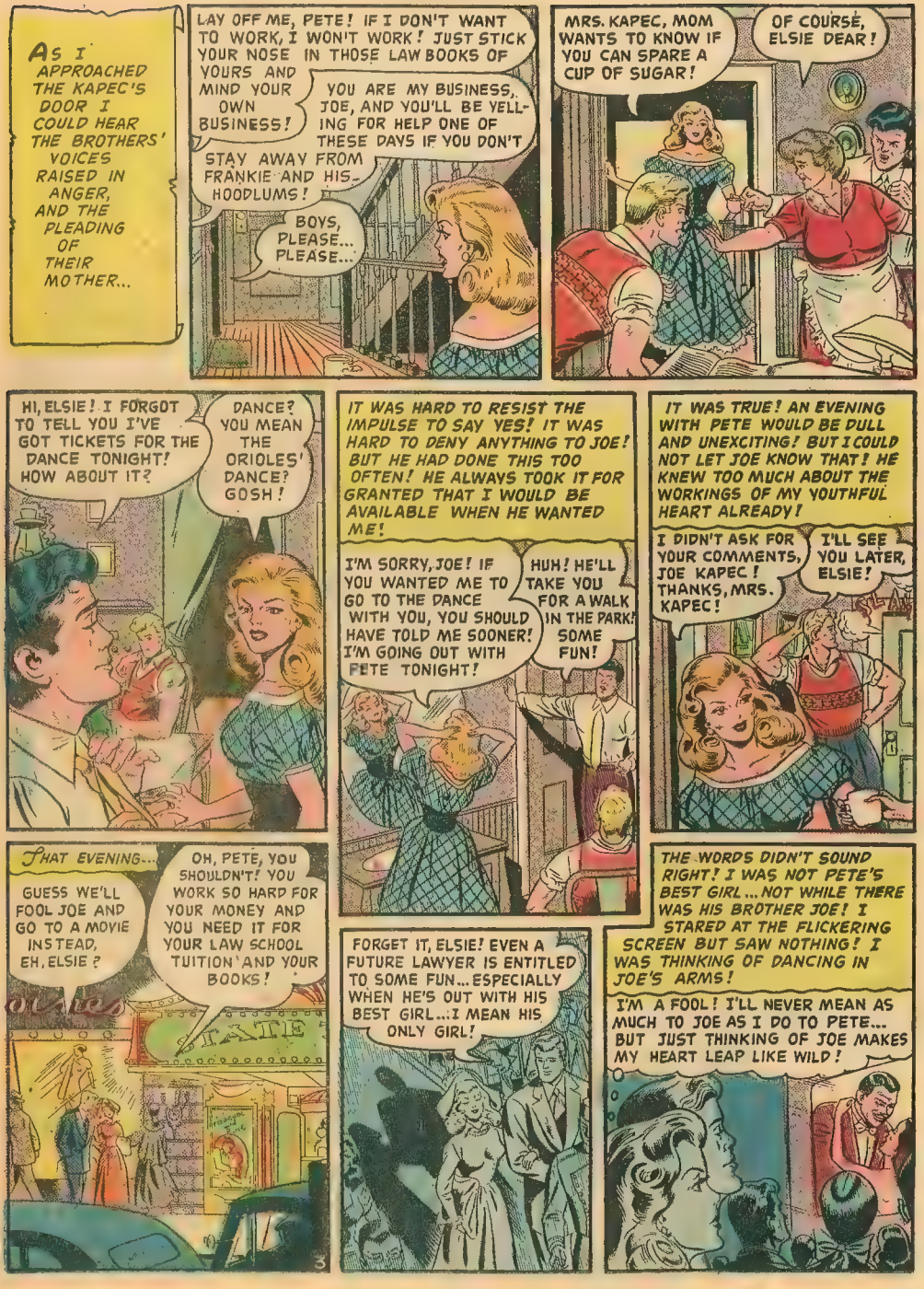

AND THIS'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO GET IN MY WAY...
OOPF!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS A LESSON!

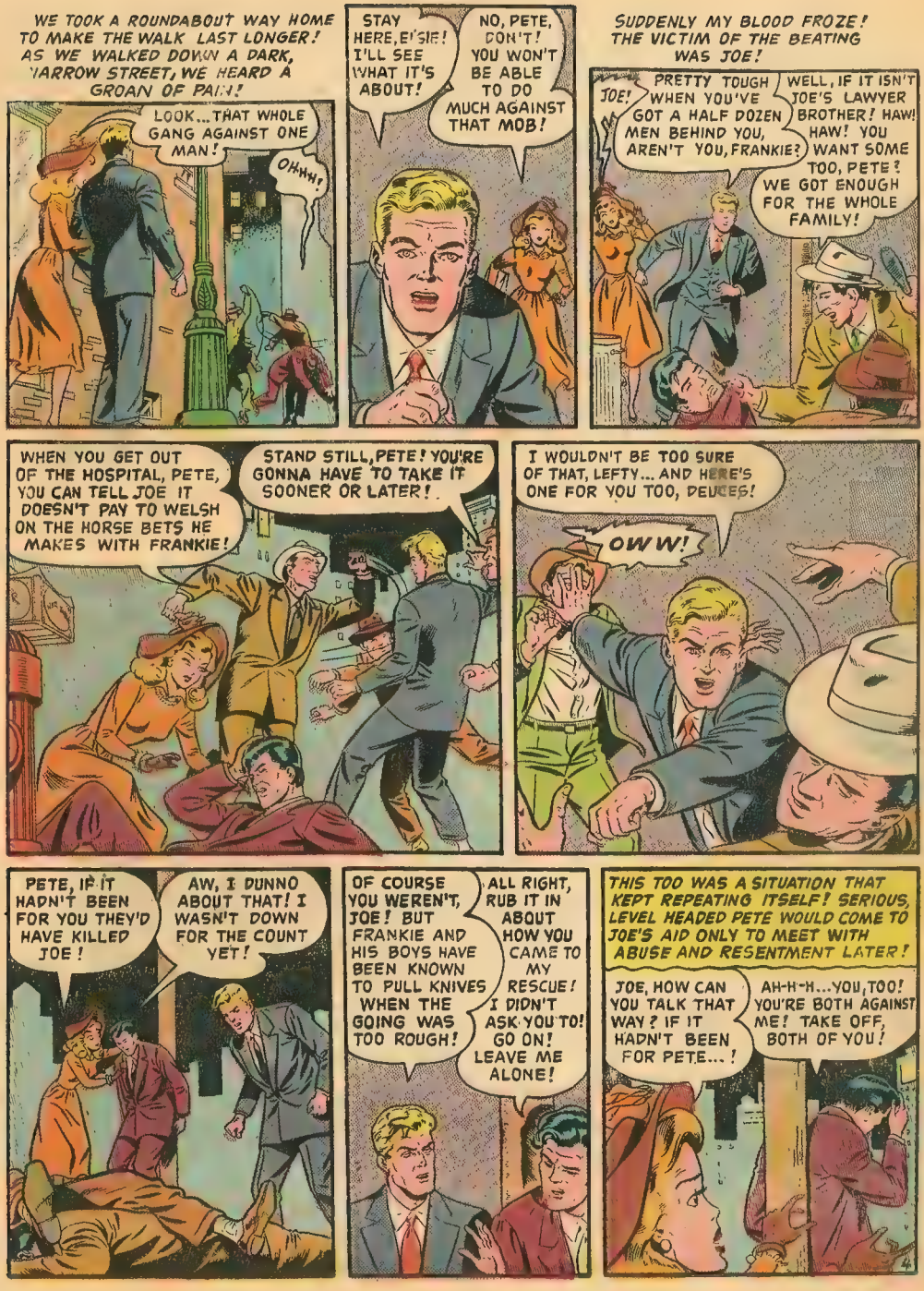

ELSIE, YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO DO IT, DON'T YOU?
ALL I UNDERSTAND IS THAT YOU GAVE YOUR OWN BROTHER A BEATING ... AND YOU...YOU ALWAYS LIKE TO SPOIL OUR FUN!

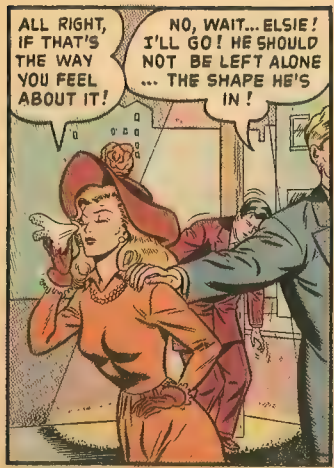
THAT PETE... HE'S A DOPE! HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT NOBODY'LL EVER GIVE US ANYTHING UNLESS WE TAKE IT!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT THOUGH, JOE! IT'S WRONG TO STEAL!

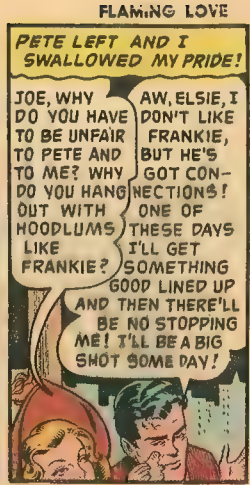

BUNK! IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, THE THING TO DO IS GET IT... AND IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW! WHAT'S MORE, I WANT PLENTY... A CAR AND A BOAT... AND A WHOLE WAREHOUSE FULL OF CANDY FOR YOU, ELSIE!
GEE WHILLIKINS, JOE, MAYBE YOU WILL HAVE A CAR AND A BOAT SOME DAY... BUT I DON'T WANT ANY CANDY RIGHT NOW! LET'S GO HOME!


IT WAS ALWAYS THAT WAY! JOE RESTLESS AND EAGER FOR LIFE... PETE QUIET, METHODICAL AND FULL OF PRINCIPLES! AND AS WE GREW OLDER THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM BECAME MORE NOTICEABLE!
ELSIE, ASK MRS. KAPEC IF SHE CAN SPARE A CUP OF SUGAR!
I'M ON MY WAY, MOM!

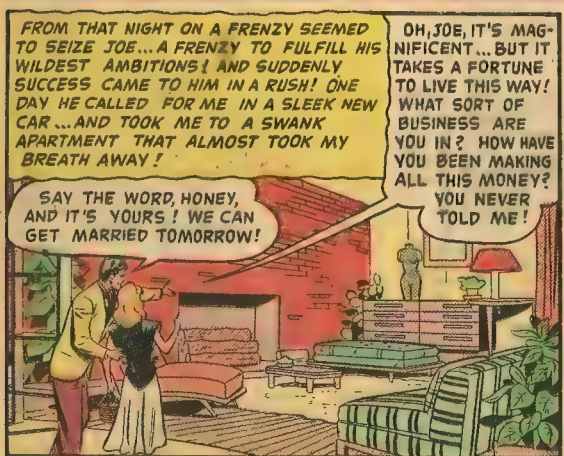

AS I APPROACHED THE KAPEC'S DOOR I COULD HEAR THE BROTHERS' VOICES RAISED IN ANGER, AND THE PLEADING OF THEIR MOTHER...
LAY OFF ME, PETE! IF I DON'T WANT TO WORK, I WON'T WORK! JUST STICK YOUR NOSE IN THOSE LAW BOOKS OF YOURS AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
YOU ARE MY BUSINESS, JOE, AND YOU'LL BE YELLING FOR HELP ONE OF THESE DAYS IF YOU DON'T STAY AWAY FROM FRANKIE AND HIS HOODLUMS!
BOYS, PLEASE... PLEASE...
MRS. KAPEC, MOM WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU CAN SPARE A CUP OF SUGAR!
OF COURSE, ELSIE DEAR!
HI, ELSIE! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU I'VE GOT TICKETS FOR THE DANCE TONIGHT! HOW ABOUT IT?
DANCE? YOU MEAN THE ORIOLES' DANCE? GOSH!
IT WAS HARD TO RESIST THE IMPULSE TO SAY YES! IT WAS HARD TO DENY ANYTHING TO JOE! BUT HE HAD DONE THIS TOO OFTEN! HE ALWAYS TOOK IT FOR GRANTED THAT I WOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN HE WANTED ME!
I'M SORRY, JOE! IF YOU WANTED ME TO GO TO THE DANCE WITH YOU, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER! I'M GOING OUT WITH PETE TONIGHT!
HUH! HE'LL TAKE YOU FOR A WALK IN THE PARK! SOME FUN!
IT WAS TRUE! AN EVENING WITH PETE WOULD BE DULL AND UNEXCITING! BUT I COULD NOT LET JOE KNOW THAT! HE KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF MY YOUTHFUL HEART ALREADY!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR COMMENTS, JOE KAPEC! THANKS, MRS. KAPEC!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, ELSIE!
THAT EVENING...
GUESS WE'LL FOOL JOE AND GO TO A MOVIE INSTEAD, EH, ELSIE?
OH, PETE, YOU SHOULDN'T! YOU WORK SO HARD FOR YOUR MONEY AND YOU NEED IT FOR YOUR LAW SCHOOL TUITION AND YOUR BOOKS!
FORGET IT, ELSIE! EVEN A FUTURE LAWYER IS ENTITLED TO SOME FUN... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S OUT WITH HIS BEST GIRL...: I MEAN HIS ONLY GIRL!
THE WORDS DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT! I WAS NOT PETE'S BEST GIRL... NOT WHILE THERE WAS HIS BROTHER JOE! I STARED AT THE FLICKERING SCREEN BUT SAW NOTHING! I WAS THINKING OF DANCING IN JOE'S ARMS!
I'M A FOOL! I'LL NEVER MEAN AS MUCH TO JOE AS I DO TO PETE... BUT JUST THINKING OF JOE MAKES MY HEART LEAP LIKE WILD!

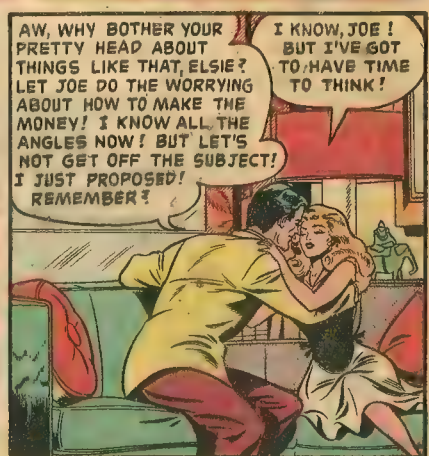

WE TOOK A ROUNDABOUT WAY HOME TO MAKE THE WALK LAST LONGER! AS WE WALKED DOWN A DARK, NARROW STREET, WE HEARD A GROAN OF PAIN!
LOOK...THAT WHOLE GANG AGAINST ONE MAN!
OHHH!
STAY HERE, ELSIE! I'LL SEE WHAT IT'S ABOUT!
NO, PETE, DON'T! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH AGAINST THAT MOB!
SUDDENLY MY BLOOD FROZE! THE VICTIM OF THE BEATING WAS JOE!
JOE!
PRETTY TOUGH WHEN YOU'VE GOT A HALF DOZEN MEN BEHIND YOU, AREN'T YOU, FRANKIE?
WELL, IF IT ISN'T JOE'S LAWYER BROTHER! HAW! HAW! YOU WANT SOME TOO, PETE? WE GOT ENOUGH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
WHEN YOU GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, PETE, YOU CAN TELL JOE IT DOESN'T PAY TO WELSH ON THE HORSE BETS HE MAKES WITH FRANKIE!
STAND STILL, PETE! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE IT SOONER OR LATER!
I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT, LEFTY... AND HERE'S ONE FOR YOU TOO, DEUCES!
OWW!
PETE, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU THEY'D HAVE KILLED JOE!
AW, I DUNNO ABOUT THAT! I WASN'T DOWN FOR THE COUNT YET!
OF COURSE YOU WEREN'T, JOE! BUT FRANKIE AND HIS BOYS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO PULL KNIVES WHEN THE GOING WAS TOO ROUGH!
ALL RIGHT, RUB IT IN ABOUT HOW YOU CAME TO MY RESCUE! I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO! GO ON! LEAVE ME ALONE!
THIS TOO WAS A SITUATION THAT KEPT REPEATING ITSELF! SERIOUS, LEVEL HEADED PETE WOULD COME TO JOE'S AID ONLY TO MEET WITH ABUSE AND RESENTMENT LATER!
JOE, HOW CAN YOU TALK THAT WAY? IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR PETE...!
AH-H-H...YOU, TOO! YOU'RE BOTH AGAINST ME! TAKE OFF, BOTH OF YOU!


ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT!
NO, WAIT... ELSIE! I'LL GO! HE SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE ... THE SHAPE HE'S IN!

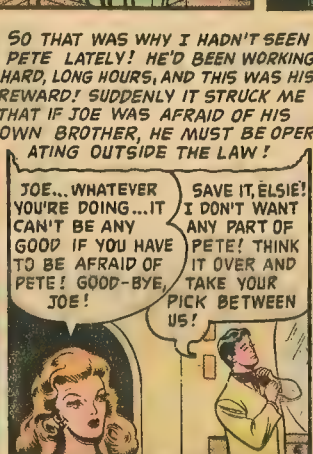

PETE LEFT AND I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE!
JOE, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE UNFAIR TO PETE AND TO ME? WHY DO YOU HANG OUT WITH HOODLUMS LIKE FRANKIE?
AW, ELSIE, I DON'T LIKE FRANKIE, BUT HE'S GOT CONNECTIONS! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL GET SOMETHING GOOD LINED UP AND THEN THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING ME! I'LL BE A BIG SHOT SOME DAY!

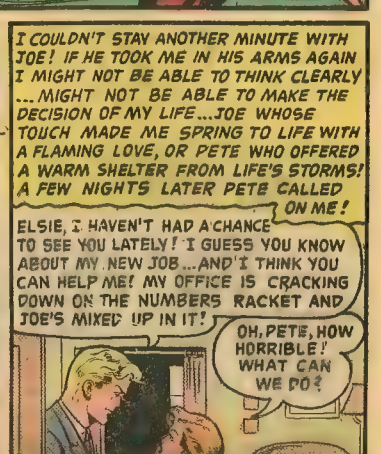
YOU WANT ME TO BE SOMEBODY, DON'T YOU, BABY? I WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO THINGS FOR YOU, TOO! I LOVE YOU, ELSIE!
OH, JOE, NOTHING MATTERS EXCEPT HEARING YOU SAY THAT! ALL I WANT IS TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!
YES, WITH JOE'S ARMS AROUND ME... WITH HIS LIPS ON MINE, NOTHING DID MATTER! THIS WAS HAPPINESS ENOUGH FOR ME!

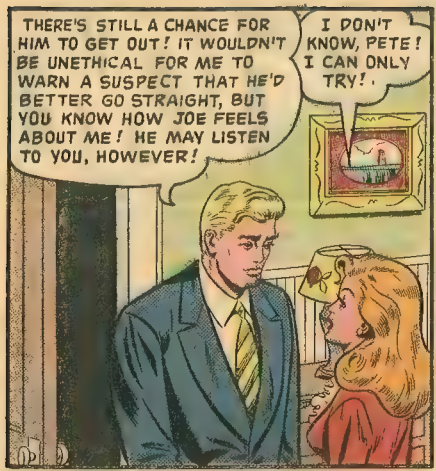

FROM THAT NIGHT ON A FRENZY SEEMED TO SEIZE JOE... A FRENZY TO FULFILL HIS WILDEST AMBITIONS! AND SUDDENLY SUCCESS CAME TO HIM IN A RUSH! ONE DAY HE CALLED FOR ME IN A SLEEK NEW CAR... AND TOOK ME TO A SWANK APARTMENT THAT ALMOST TOOK MY BREATH AWAY!
OH, JOE, IT'S MAGNIFICENT... BUT IT TAKES A FORTUNE TO LIVE THIS WAY! WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS ARE YOU IN? HOW HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING ALL THIS MONEY? YOU NEVER TOLD ME!
SAY THE WORD, HONEY, AND IT'S YOURS! WE CAN GET MARRIED TOMORROW!

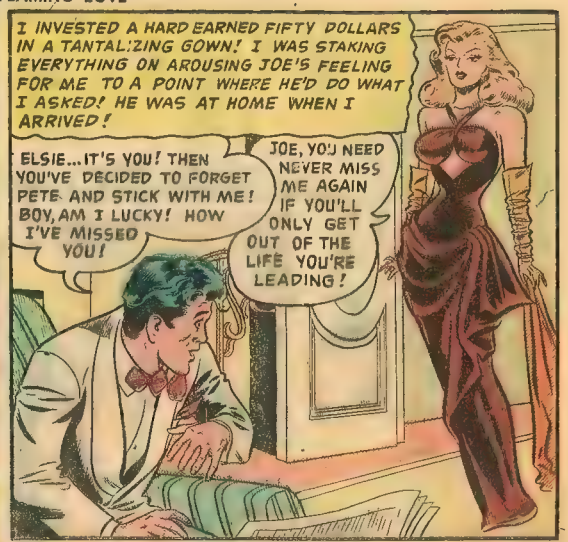

AW, WHY BOTHER YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, ELSIE? LET JOE DO THE WORRYING ABOUT HOW TO MAKE THE MONEY! I KNOW ALL THE ANGLES NOW! BUT LET'S NOT GET OFF THE SUBJECT! I JUST PROPOSED! REMEMBER?
I KNOW, JOE! BUT I'VE GOT TO HAVE TIME TO THINK!

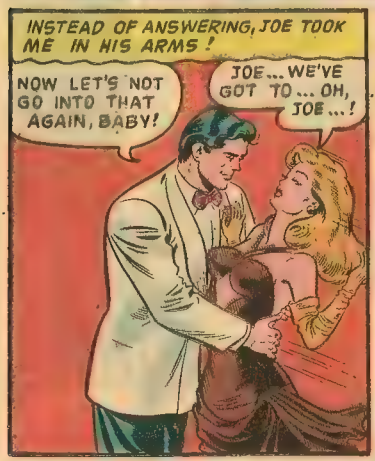
TIME TO THINK OR TIME TO TALK TO PETE ABOUT IT? LISTEN, BABY, IF YOU'VE STILL GOT A SOFT SPOT FOR PETE, YOU CAN START STAYING AWAY FROM ME! I DON'T WANT A GIRL WITH AN INSIDE TRACK TO THE ASSISTANT D.A.! SEE?
THE ASSISTANT D.A.! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW!

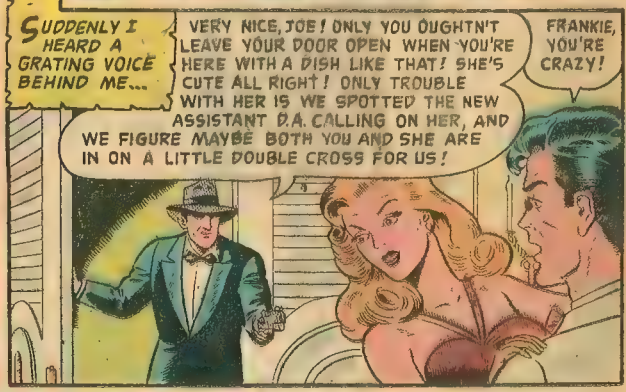

SO THAT WAS WHY I HADN'T SEEN PETE LATELY! HE'D BEEN WORKING HARD, LONG HOURS, AND THIS WAS HIS REWARD! SUDDENLY IT STRUCK ME THAT IF JOE WAS AFRAID OF HIS OWN BROTHER, HE MUST BE OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW!
JOE... WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING... IT CAN'T BE ANY GOOD IF YOU HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF PETE! GOOD-BYE, JOE!
SAVE IT, ELSIE! I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF PETE! THINK IT OVER AND TAKE YOUR PICK BETWEEN US!

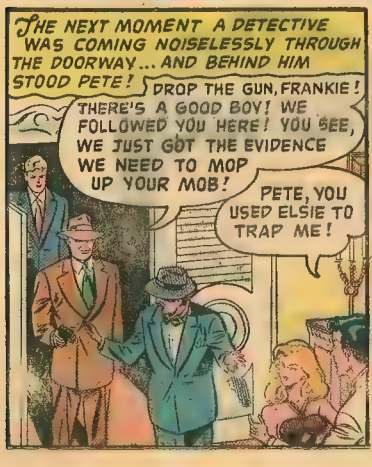

I COULDN'T STAY ANOTHER MINUTE WITH JOE! IF HE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS AGAIN I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO THINK CLEARLY ... MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE DECISION OF MY LIFE... JOE WHOSE TOUCH MADE ME SPRING TO LIFE WITH A FLAMING LOVE, OR PETE WHO OFFERED A WARM SHELTER FROM LIFE'S STORMS! A FEW NIGHTS LATER PETE CALLED ON ME!
ELSIE, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SEE YOU LATELY! I GUESS YOU KNOW ABOUT MY NEW JOB... AND I THINK YOU CAN HELP ME! MY OFFICE IS CRACKING DOWN ON THE NUMBERS RACKET AND JOE'S MIXED UP IN IT!
OH, PETE, HOW HORRIBLE! WHAT CAN WE DO?


THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR HIM TO GET OUT! IT WOULDN'T BE UNETHICAL FOR ME TO WARN A SUSPECT THAT HE'D BETTER GO STRAIGHT, BUT YOU KNOW HOW JOE FEELS ABOUT ME! HE MAY LISTEN TO YOU, HOWEVER!
I DON'T KNOW, PETE! I CAN ONLY TRY!

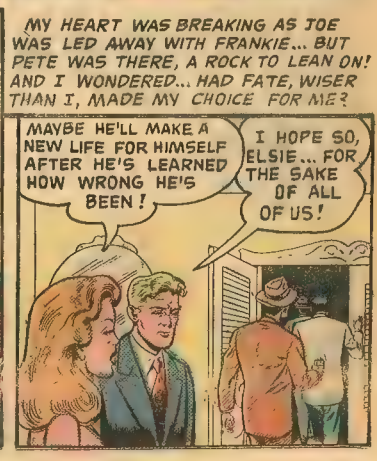

I INVESTED A HARD EARNED FIFTY DOLLARS IN A TANTALIZING GOWN! I WAS STAKING EVERYTHING ON AROUSING JOE'S FEELING FOR ME TO A POINT WHERE HE'D DO WHAT I ASKED! HE WAS AT HOME WHEN I ARRIVED!
ELSIE...IT'S YOU! THEN YOU'VE DECIDED TO FORGET PETE AND STICK WITH ME! BOY, AM I LUCKY! HOW I'VE MISSED YOU!
JOE, YOU NEED NEVER MISS ME AGAIN IF YOU'LL ONLY GET OUT OF THE LIFE YOU'RE LEADING!


INSTEAD OF ANSWERING, JOE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS!
NOW LET'S NOT GO INTO THAT AGAIN, BABY!
JOE...WE'VE GOT TO...OH, JOE...!


SUDDENLY I HEARD A GRATING VOICE BEHIND ME...
VERY NICE, JOE! ONLY YOU OUGHTN'T LEAVE YOUR DOOR OPEN WHEN YOU'RE HERE WITH A DISH LIKE THAT! SHE'S CUTE ALL RIGHT! ONLY TROUBLE WITH HER IS WE SPOTTED THE NEW ASSISTANT D.A. CALLING ON HER, AND WE FIGURE MAYBE BOTH YOU AND SHE ARE IN ON A LITTLE DOUBLE CROSS FOR US!
FRANKIE, YOU'RE CRAZY!


THE NEXT MOMENT A DETECTIVE WAS COMING NOISELESSLY THROUGH THE DOORWAY...AND BEHIND HIM STOOD PETE!
DROP THE GUN, FRANKIE!
THERE'S A GOOD BOY! WE FOLLOWED YOU HERE! YOU SEE, WE JUST GOT THE EVIDENCE WE NEED TO MOP UP YOUR MOB!
PETE, YOU USED ELSIE TO TRAP ME!

YOU'RE WRONG, JOE! ELSIE WAS HERE TO SAVE YOU BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! I HAD TO DO MY DUTY AND YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE THE MUSIC!
HUH! ALWAYS TALKING LIKE A BOY SCOUT! I GUESS ELSIE'S YOURS NOW!


MY HEART WAS BREAKING AS JOE WAS LED AWAY WITH FRANKIE... BUT PETE WAS THERE, A ROCK TO LEAN ON! AND I WONDERED... HAD FATE, WISER THAN I, MADE MY CHOICE FOR ME?
MAYBE HE'LL MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR HIMSELF AFTER HE'S LEARNED HOW WRONG HE'S BEEN!
I HOPE SO, ELSIE... FOR THE SAKE OF ALL OF US!

SACRIFICE OF LOVE

For years my one love had been medical science, my one goal achievement in my chosen career! But then I met Bruce Lake and I knew that my mind had reckoned without my heart ...for suddenly a strange and burning emotion demanded that I change my whole life for love!

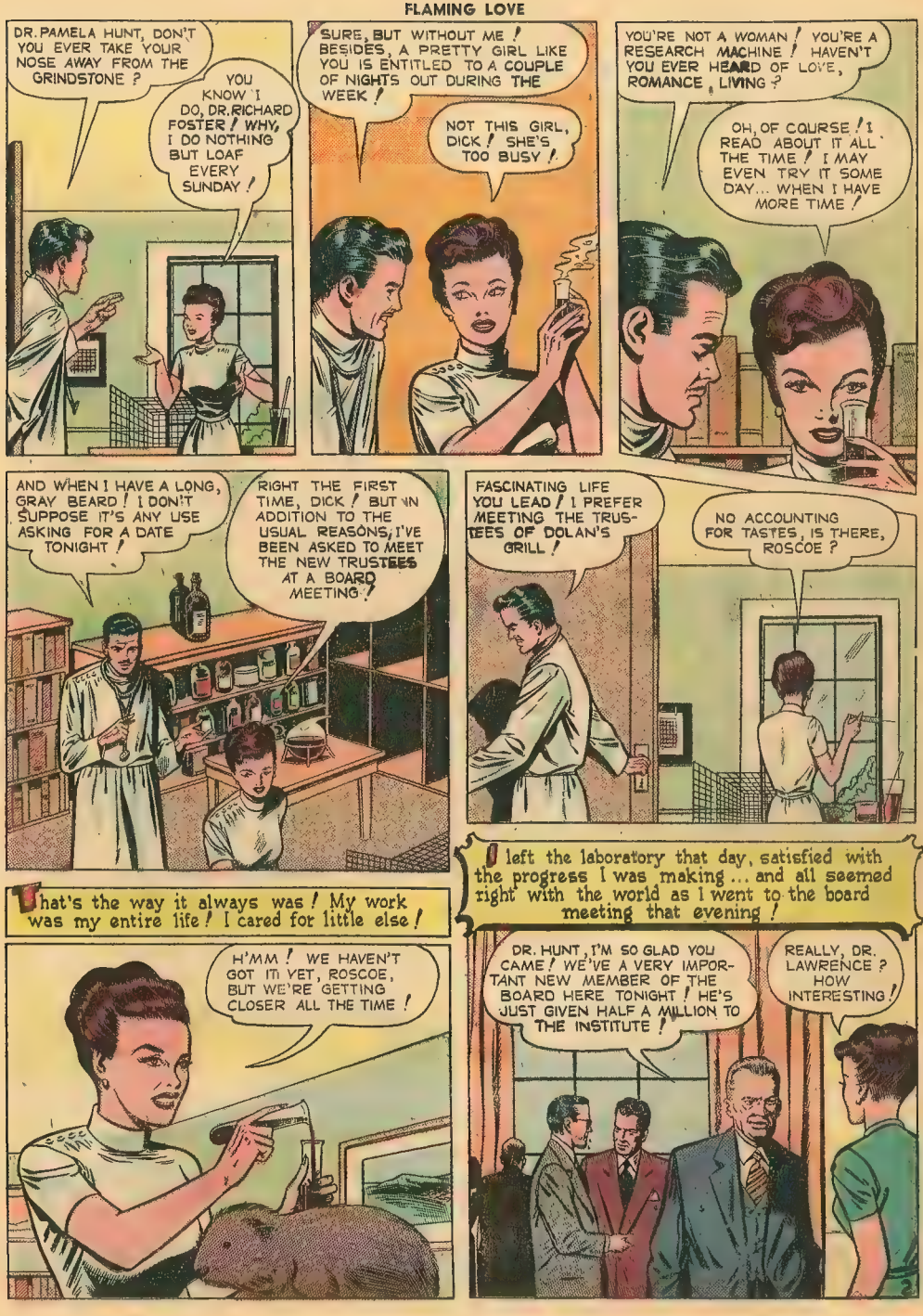
BROOKS INSTITUTE

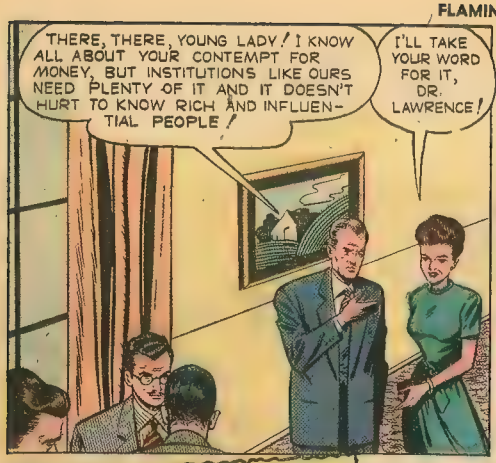
CAN'T TELL, ROSCOE! I'VE BEEN GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER! I MAY HIT IT THIS TIME!

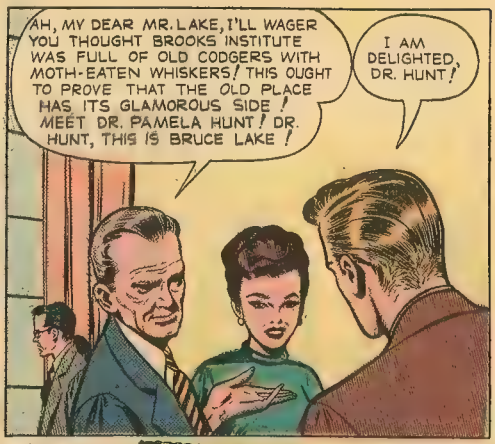
It was two years after I had finished my internship and I was happily at work in my laboratory at Brooks Institute, where I had a research fellowship!

COME ON, ROSCOE, YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED TO TRY OUT DR PAMELA HUNT'S SERUM NUMBER 214!

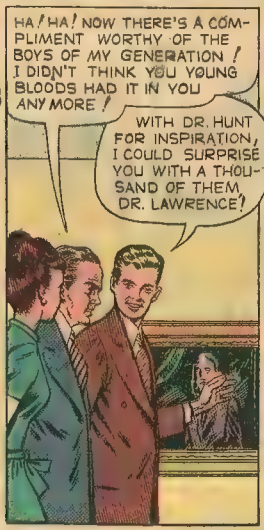
Rx For two years I had been looking for a cure for the rare ailment known as Vorner's Disease


DR. PAMELA HUNT, DON'T YOU EVER TAKE YOUR NOSE AWAY FROM THE GRINDSTONE ?
YOU KNOW I DO, DR. RICHARD FOSTER ! WHY, I DO NOTHING BUT LOAF EVERY SUNDAY !
SURE, BUT WITHOUT ME ! BESIDES, A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU IS ENTITLED TO A COUPLE OF NIGHTS OUT DURING THE WEEK !
NOT THIS GIRL, DICK ! SHE'S TOO BUSY !
YOU'RE NOT A WOMAN ! YOU'RE A RESEARCH MACHINE ! HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF LOVE, ROMANCE, LIVING ?
OH, OF COURSE ! I READ ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME ! I MAY EVEN TRY IT SOME DAY... WHEN I HAVE MORE TIME !
AND WHEN I HAVE A LONG, GRAY BEARD ! I DON'T SUPPOSE IT'S ANY USE ASKING FOR A DATE TONIGHT !
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, DICK ! BUT IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL REASONS, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES AT A BOARD MEETING !
FASCINATING LIFE YOU LEAD ! I PREFER MEETING THE TRUSTEES OF DOLAN'S GRILL !
NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES, IS THERE, ROSCOE ?
That's the way it always was ! My work was my entire life ! I cared for little else !
H'MM ! WE HAVEN'T GOT IT YET, ROSCOE, BUT WE'RE GETTING CLOSER ALL THE TIME !
I left the laboratory that day, satisfied with the progress I was making... and all seemed right with the world as I went to the board meeting that evening !
DR. HUNT, I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME ! WE'VE A VERY IMPORTANT NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD HERE TONIGHT ! HE'S JUST GIVEN HALF A MILLION TO THE INSTITUTE !
REALLY, DR. LAWRENCE ? HOW INTERESTING !

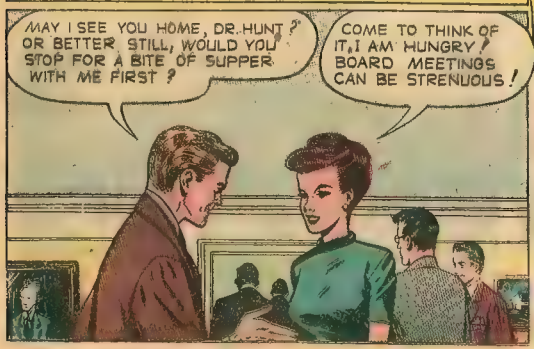

THERE, THERE, YOUNG LADY! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR CONTEMPT FOR MONEY, BUT INSTITUTIONS LIKE OURS NEED PLENTY OF IT AND IT DOESN'T HURT TO KNOW RICH AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE!
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, DR. LAWRENCE!

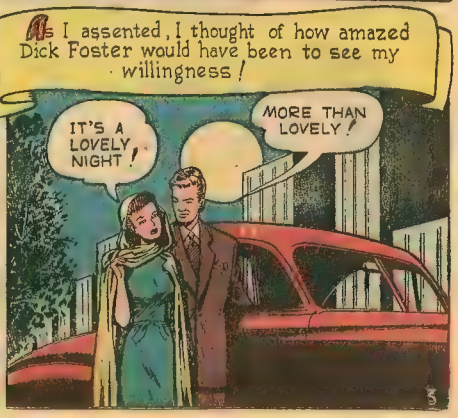

AH, MY DEAR MR. LAKE, I'LL WAGER YOU THOUGHT BROOKS INSTITUTE WAS FULL OF OLD CODGERS WITH MOTH-EATEN WHISKERS! THIS OUGHT TO PROVE THAT THE OLD PLACE HAS ITS GLAMOROUS SIDE! MEET DR. PAMELA HUNT! DR. HUNT, THIS IS BRUCE LAKE!
I AM DELIGHTED, DR. HUNT!

It must have begun right then and there! A thrill such as I had never known before swept over me as I felt the pressure of Bruce Lake's hand on mine!
H-HOW DO YOU DO, MR. LAKE?
IF I MAY SAY SO, BROOKS INSTITUTE SEEMS TO HAVE MORE FASCINATING ASPECTS THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED!


HA! HA! NOW THERE'S A COMPLIMENT WORTHY OF THE BOYS OF MY GENERATION! I DIDN'T THINK YOU YOUNG BLOODS HAD IT IN YOU ANYMORE!
WITH DR. HUNT FOR INSPIRATION, I COULD SURPRISE YOU WITH A THOUSAND OF THEM, DR. LAWRENCE!

For the first time I wasn't listening when the affairs of the Institute were being discussed at the board meeting that night!
I'M BEING SILLY! THIS IS SCHOOLGIRL STUFF! HE'S JUST A MAN... A VERY HANDSOME ONE, I MUST ADMIT, BUT NO REASON FOR GETTING GIDDY!


When the meeting was over, I knew I was waiting for Bruce Lake to come to me! He did!
MAY I SEE YOU HOME, DR. HUNT? OR BETTER STILL, WOULD YOU STOP FOR A BITE OF SUPPER WITH ME FIRST?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I AM HUNGRY! BOARD MEETINGS CAN BE STRENUOUS!


As I assented, I thought of how amazed Dick Foster would have been to see my willingness!
IT'S A LOVELY NIGHT!
MORE THAN LOVELY!

As we ate in the small roadhouse, I found myself enjoying Bruce Lake's talk, even though it had nothing to do with science ...

WHEN DAD DIED AND LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME AND MY KID SISTER, BONNIE, I FELT SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE SHOULD BE DONE WITH A GOOD PART OF THE MONEY!

I HAD ALWAYS ADMIRED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BROOKS INSTITUTE AND THEY WERE THE FIRST ON MY LIST! NOW I'M GLAD FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON!

THE ONE REASON IS ENOUGH, MR. LAKE! THE INSTITUTE CAN USE PLENTY OF MONEY!

OF COURSE! BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME A FELLOW FOR BEING A LITTLE EXTRA GLAD BECAUSE IT LED HIM TO A MEETING WITH YOU!

NONSENSE! I'M JUST A HARD WORKING RESEARCH DOCTOR!

YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT, PAM! YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, WONDERFUL GIRL I'VE EVER KNOWN!

BUT...!

I didn't know quite what I was going to say, but it didn't matter! The next instant I was in his arms, adrift on the tide of his kisses!

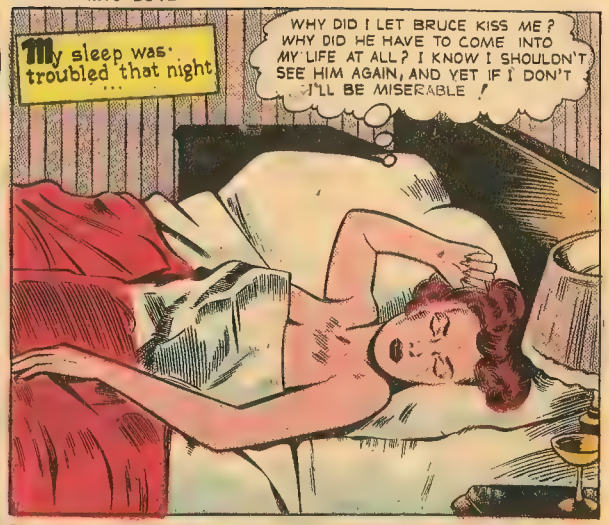
Suddenly, I took hold of myself! This wasn't for me! This wasn't part of my plans!

DON'T, BRUCE! THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT!

WHAT? BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS, PAM ... UN-UNLESS YOU DON'T LIKE ME!

IT ISN'T THAT! IT'S JUST THAT IT WOULD CONFUSE ME... TAKE MY MIND OFF MY WORK! I CAN'T AFFORD IT!

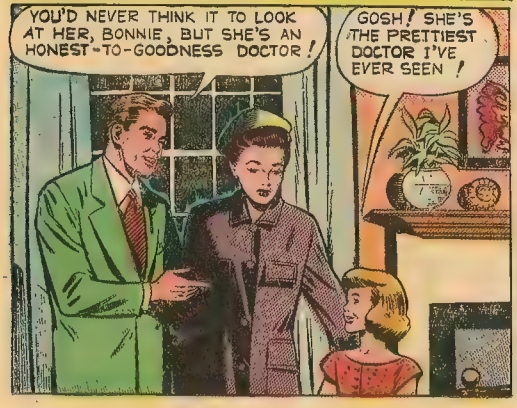
THAT'S FANTASTIC, PAM! A MINUTE AGO I REALIZED I'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU! I WON'T LET YOU GO JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOME SILLY NOTION ABOUT HOW TO RUN YOUR LIFE!

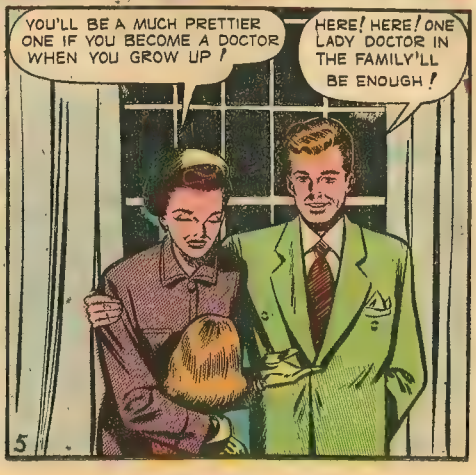


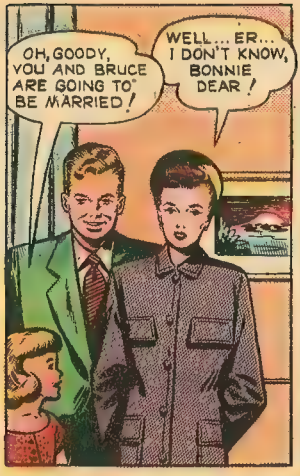
As I went about my work next day, the cool resolution which I thought had left me seemed to return!

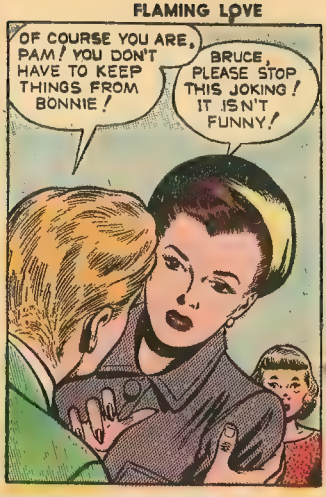
But when the phone rang, my heart raced with an eagerness over which I had no control!

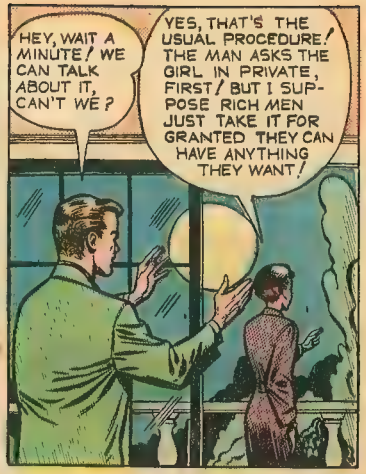
That night Bruce took me to his home to meet his little sister! She was adorable!

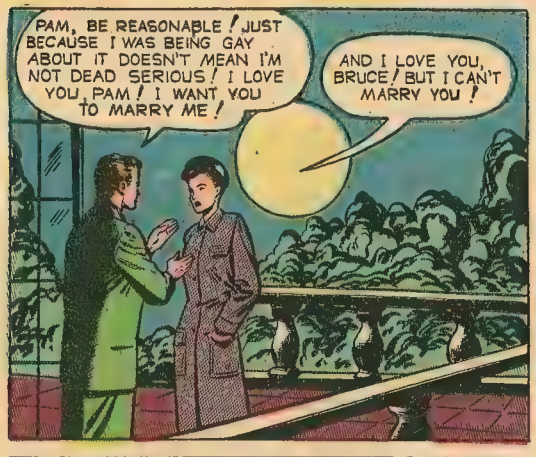




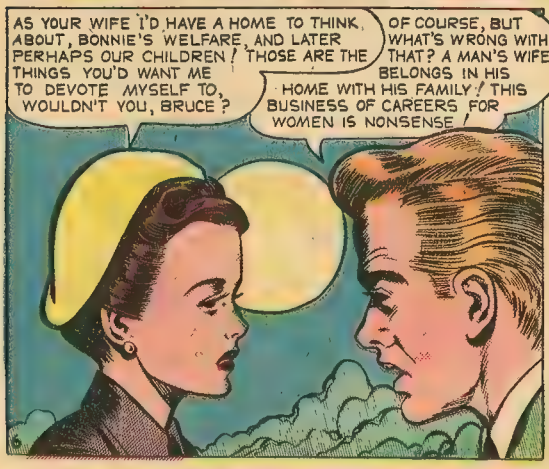

OH, GOODY, YOU AND BRUCE ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
WELL... ER... I DON'T KNOW, BONNIE DEAR!


OF COURSE YOU ARE, PAM! YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP THINGS FROM BONNIE!
BRUCE, PLEASE STOP THIS JOKING! IT ISN'T FUNNY!


HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT, CAN'T WE?
YES, THAT'S THE USUAL PROCEDURE! THE MAN ASKS THE GIRL IN PRIVATE, FIRST! BUT I SUPPOSE RICH MEN JUST TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THEY CAN HAVE ANYTHING THEY WANT!

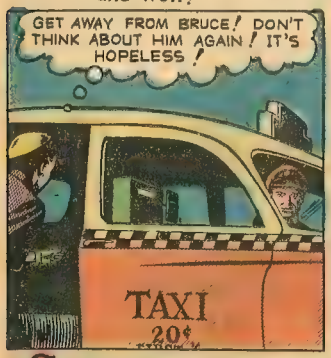

PAM, BE REASONABLE! JUST BECAUSE I WAS BEING GAY ABOUT IT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT DEAD SERIOUS! I LOVE YOU, PAM! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME!
AND I LOVE YOU, BRUCE! BUT I CAN'T MARRY YOU!

BUT WHY NOT? I CAN GIVE YOU EVERYTHING A WOMAN MIGHT WANT!
YOU CAN'T GIVE ME THE COMPLETE CONCENTRATION, THE COMPLETE DEVOTION TO MY RESEARCH THAT I MUST HAVE IF I'M TO FIND THE CURE FOR VORNER'S DISEASE!


AS YOUR WIFE I'D HAVE A HOME TO THINK ABOUT, BONNIE'S WELFARE, AND LATER PERHAPS OUR CHILDREN! THOSE ARE THE THINGS YOU'D WANT ME TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO, WOULDN'T YOU, BRUCE?
OF COURSE, BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? A MAN'S WIFE BELONGS IN HIS HOME WITH HIS FAMILY! THIS BUSINESS OF CAREERS FOR WOMEN IS NONSENSE!

CAREERS ARE MEANT FOR MEN!
I HAD AN IDEA YOU FELT THAT WAY! SO THIS IS GOOD-BYE, BRUCE!

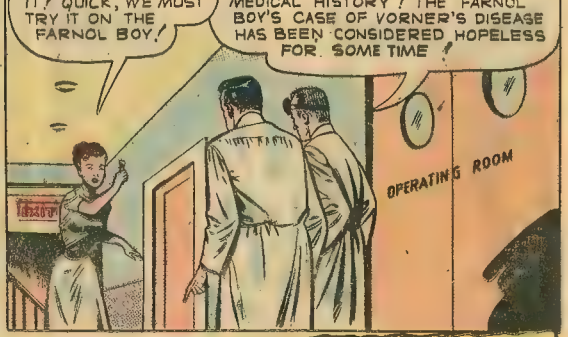
Even as I left him, I wanted to kiss him, to feel his lips on mine once again! But I fought the battle out within my heart... and won!



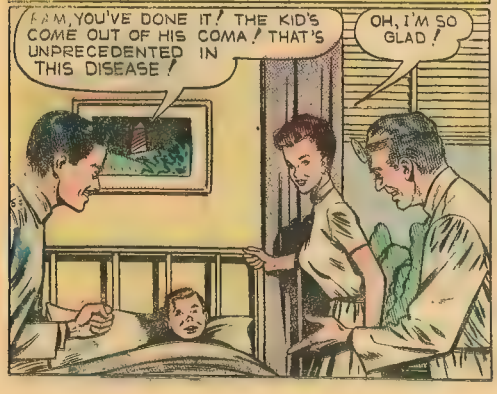
I had always heard that hard work was the best antidote for sorrow! The next day I threw myself into my job with grim determination!

Several weeks later my desperate labors bore sudden fruit!

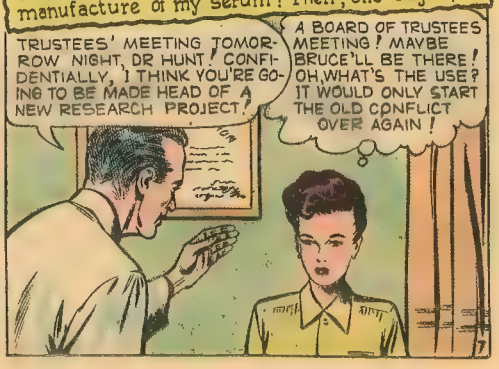
As I rushed to the hospital wards of Brooks Institute, I knew that at least one kind of happiness was mine... the happiness of success!



I administered the new serum to the young patient and then stayed near him... hoping, praying that I'd been right! Hours later...



For weeks afterward I was too busy to think about anything but the reports that had to be written, the papers that had to be read to medical societies and the arrangements for the manufacture of my serum! Then, one day...!



Yet when I didn't see Bruce at the board meeting, I couldn't help feeling a twinge of disappointment! I asked Dr. Lawrence about him!

OH, LAKE? THE CHAP SEEMS TO HAVE LOST INTEREST IN OUR ACTIVITIES!

I THINK I KNOW WHY HE'S LOST INTEREST! OH, IF ONLY HE'D GIVEN ME A CHANCE! I DID LOVE HIM!

As the initial excitement of my first success began to wear off, I missed Bruce more and more! But Fate sometimes steps in where mortals are powerless to act! One day as I passed through a hospital corridor...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE AROUND, DR. HUNT! WE JUST GOT A CALL ON AN EMERGENCY CASE OF VORNER'S DISEASE! IT'S AT MR. BRUCE LAKE'S HOUSE...

BRUCE LAKE'S HOUSE?

WARDS 6 8 10 12

Frantic with anxiety, I rode the ambulance to Bruce's house...

OH, CAN'T HE DRIVE FASTER?

RELAX, DR. HUNT! WE'RE DOING SEVENTY NOW!

PAM! YOU CAME! I'D HEARD VAGUE RUMORS THAT YOU'D BEEN SUCCESSFUL BUT I'M A STUBBORN FOOL! I DIDN'T EVEN TROUBLE, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT! PAM, IT'S BONNIE!

OH, THE POOR DARLING! BUT DON'T WORRY, BRUCE! SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

Several weeks earlier I could have done nothing for the little sister of the man I loved! Now, it was easy...

PAM, LOOK! SHE'S SMILING! SHE'S GOING TO GET WELL! YOU DID IT, PAM! AND I WAS THE ONE WHO TRIED TO TALK YOU OUT OF GOING ON WITH YOUR WORK ... FOR MY OWN SELFISH REASONS!

LET'S NOT THINK ABOUT THAT NOW, BRUCE!

PAM, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? IF YOU'LL MARRY ME, YOU CAN GO ON WITH YOUR WORK AT BROOKS INSTITUTE FOREVER... AND I'LL GIVE ANOTHER MILLION TO THE PLACE!

I WON'T MARRY YOU FOR THAT, BRUCE, BUT I WILL BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!

IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE BOTH A CAREER AND MARRIAGE IF PEOPLE ARE SENSIBLE ABOUT BOTH, DARLING!

GOODY! I KNEW YOU TWO WOULD GET MARRIED!

My Sin of Jealousy

LIKE a dreamer caught in a nightmare I could hear my own voice shrieking hateful accusations, saying things I didn't want to say but was powerless to stop. David stared at me, his face pale as death, his eyes full of hurt.

"Don't deny it," I panted furiously. "I saw you in that restaurant, simpering at that blonde across the table. So you had to break our lunch date because an old schoolmate was in town. Was she your old schoolmate?"

"Ev!" Dave caught my arms and shook me roughly; "Keep still a moment and listen to me. I'm not denying it, and if you'll quit this crazy jealous tantrum and listen a moment, I'll explain. I told you I was having lunch with Tom Bennett and I was. Tom must have been back in the telephone booth when you saw us. That girl is his fiancee. They're being married next week and they were asking me to be best man at their wedding."

I stared at Dave, feeling the fury of my jealousy and hurt evaporate as his words penetrated my mind. Suddenly I was sick with shame at my own crazy flare-up. "Dave," I whimpered. "Dave, forgive me. I—I didn't mean to be such a little fool. It's just that I love you so much the very thought of your looking at someone else drives me crazy."

I threw myself against his broad chest, sobbing. His strong arms went around me but it was a long time before they tightened in the old familiar way that made my heart go mad. He put a finger under my chin and tilted my face up, then. His eyes were grave and full of sadness.

"You've got to stop this, Evelyn," he said quietly. "This insane jealousy of yours is wrecking your life. If you don't learn some control, it can wreck mine, too. You see, dear, I love you, too, but no love is strong enough to endure much of this mistrust and suspicion. Real love is built on faith and loyalty, not on wild, crazy doubts and fears and selfish jealousies."

"I will stop it," I sobbed. "Give me another chance, Dave. I won't doubt you again. I swear I won't."

"All right, Evelyn. Another chance. There's no one else in my life and there won't be unless you drive me away forever."

He kissed me tenderly, then, and left with the promise of tomorrow night together. After Dave had gone I threw myself on my bed, hating myself for the jealousy I had never learned to control. Of course I trusted Dave and believed his love. I would tell myself that again and again, and then the sight of something like that accidental meeting in the restaurant would drive all my determination away in another wild surge of jealous fury.

"But this time it won't," I whispered. "I'll never doubt again."

It was the next forenoon that I had to rush to the depot to mail an important letter for my boss. As I stepped out onto the platform my heart turned over and a coldness caught at my throat.

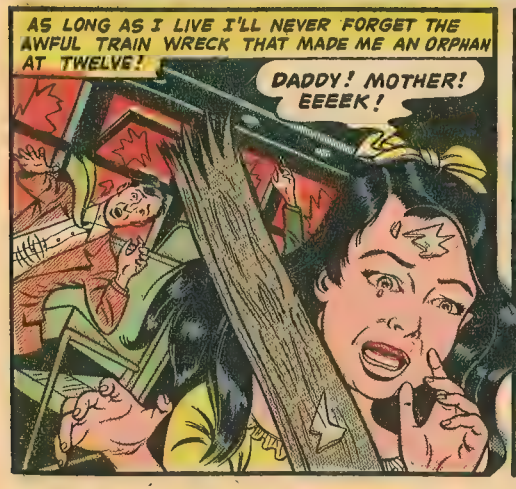
There, not a dozen feet away, was David. His arms were around a strange girl who had just stepped from the train and he was kissing her eagerly. Hurt and anger and jealous rage flared up in me. For an instant I was torn between flight and facing them, spitting out my fury to their startled faces.

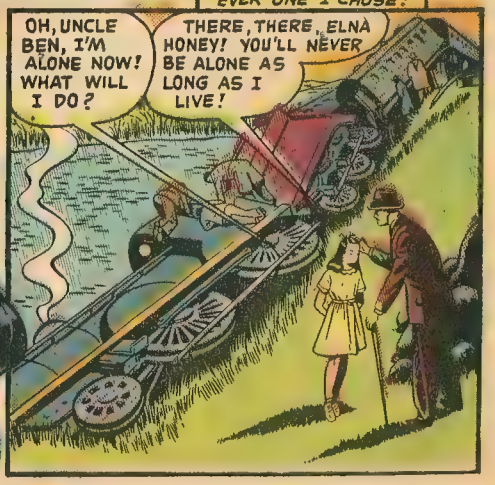
Then the words of my promise came back. *I'll never doubt again.* I stood with my fists clenched, fighting my jealousy and winning, at last, a measure of control. Slowly the anger went down. No matter how this looked, I had promised to trust Dave and trust him I would.

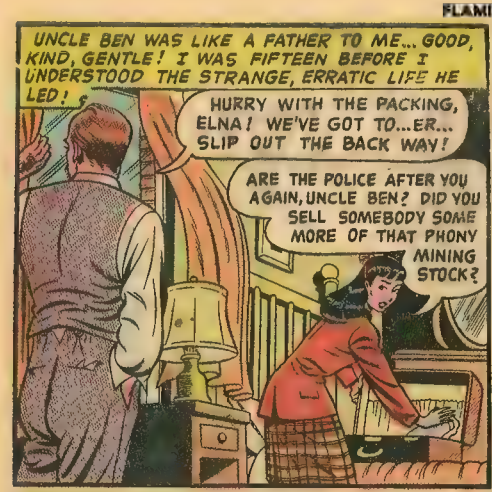
I was about to hurry away when Dave turned and saw me. His eyes went wide. He searched my face and then a radiance like the sunlight after a storm came with his smile. Still holding the strange girl's hand, he came toward me. "Ev, you spoiled my surprise but I'm glad to see you. I want you to meet my other best girl—my sister, Judy."

Accessory In Love

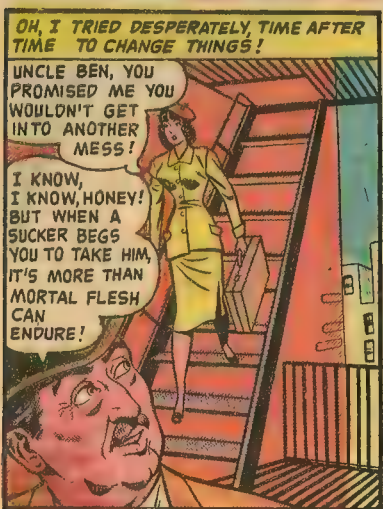
THE LAW HAS A NAME FOR A GIRL LIKE ME... ACCESSORY TO THE CRIME! FOR I LIVED WITH A CRIMINAL, SHELTERED HIM FROM JUSTICE, SHARED THE SPOILS FROM HIS FRAUDS AND SWINDLES! BUT INEVITABLE FATE CAUGHT UP AT LAST! I FELL IN LOVE AND FACED A TERRIBLE CHOICE! I MUST BETRAY ONE LOVE TO SAVE THE OTHER... AND REVEAL MY OWN SHAMEFUL SECRET WHICHEVER ONE I CHOSE!

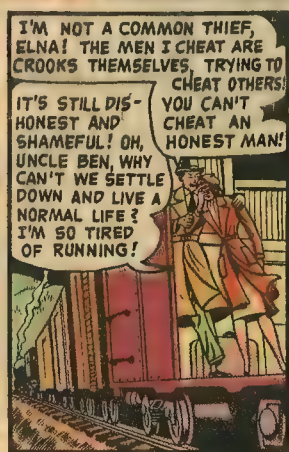





UNCLE BEN WAS LIKE A FATHER TO ME... GOOD, KIND, GENTLE! I WAS FIFTEEN BEFORE I UNDERSTOOD THE STRANGE, ERRATIC LIFE HE LED!
HURRY WITH THE PACKING, ELNA! WE'VE GOT TO...ER... SLIP OUT THE BACK WAY!
ARE THE POLICE AFTER YOU AGAIN, UNCLE BEN? DID YOU SELL SOMEBODY SOME MORE OF THAT PHONY MINING STOCK?

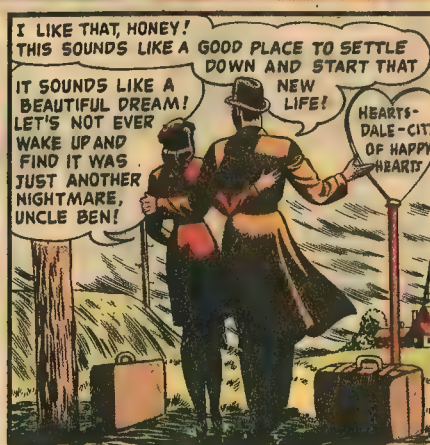
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT IDEA? WHO SAID SUCH A THING? WHO TOLD YOU... UH... I MEAN, WHO SPREAD SUCH LIES?
THE KIDS! TOMMY EDSEL SAID YOU WERE JUST A CHEAP CON MAN... SO I BOPPED HIM IN THE EYE!


OH, I TRIED DESPERATELY, TIME AFTER TIME TO CHANGE THINGS!
UNCLE BEN, YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T GET INTO ANOTHER MESS!
I KNOW, I KNOW, HONEY! BUT WHEN A SUCKER BEGS YOU TO TAKE HIM, IT'S MORE THAN MORTAL FLESH CAN ENDURE!


I'M NOT A COMMON THIEF, ELNA! THE MEN I CHEAT ARE CROOKS THEMSELVES, TRYING TO CHEAT OTHERS!
IT'S STILL DISHONEST AND SHAMEFUL! OH, UNCLE BEN, WHY CAN'T WE SETTLE DOWN AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE? I'M SO TIRED OF RUNNING!
YOU CAN'T CHEAT AN HONEST MAN!

POOR ELNA! I HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH OF A GUARDIAN TO YOU, HAVE I?
OH, BUT YOU HAVE! YOU'RE THE DEAREST, KINDEST, FINEST MAN ON EARTH! IF...IF ONLY YOU WOULDN'T SELL THAT MINING STOCK!

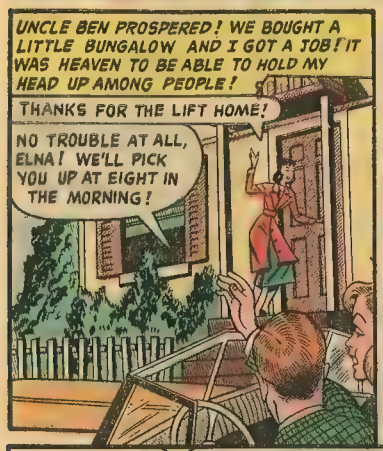
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE THAT, UNCLE BEN! I'D BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!
WORD OF HONOR, I'M THROUGH WITH THAT, HONEY! NO MORE PHONY STOCKS AS LONG AS I LIVE!


I LIKE THAT, HONEY! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO SETTLE DOWN AND START THAT NEW LIFE!
IT SOUNDS LIKE A BEAUTIFUL DREAM! LET'S NOT EVER WAKE UP AND FIND IT WAS JUST ANOTHER NIGHTMARE, UNCLE BEN!
HEARTSDALE-CITY OF HAPPY HEARTS

WE FOUND A CHEAP ROOM, ALL WE COULD AFFORD, AND THEN ONE DAY...
TRA-LA-LA-LA, MY SWEET, MY PET! TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE! WE'RE SOLVENT AGAIN! I SOLD A WHOLE BLOCK OF STOCK TODAY!
OH, UNCLE BEN ... YOU PROMISED! YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T ...!

OH, NO I DIDN'T! I PROMISED NOT TO SELL PHONY STOCK! THIS IS LEGITIMATE! I LANDED A JOB WITH A BIG BROKERAGE FIRM!
A JOB! THAT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL NEWS OF ALL!

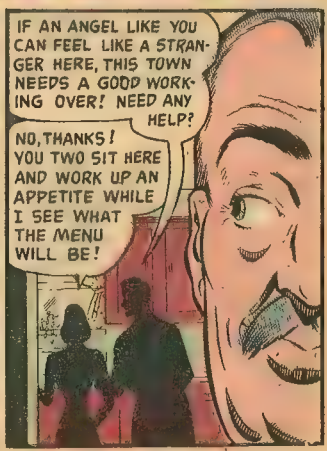
THAT NIGHT WE CELEBRATED, AND I WAS SO HAPPY I WANTED TO CRY!
I FIGURED IT ALL OUT, HONEY! WHY SELL PHONY STOCK WHEN I CAN SELL LEGITIMATE STOCK AND GET PAID FOR IT? SIMPLE, EH?
AND WONDERFUL! NOW I CAN BEGIN TO MEET PEOPLE, TO HAVE SOME FRIENDS! I'VE ... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID TO, BEFORE!

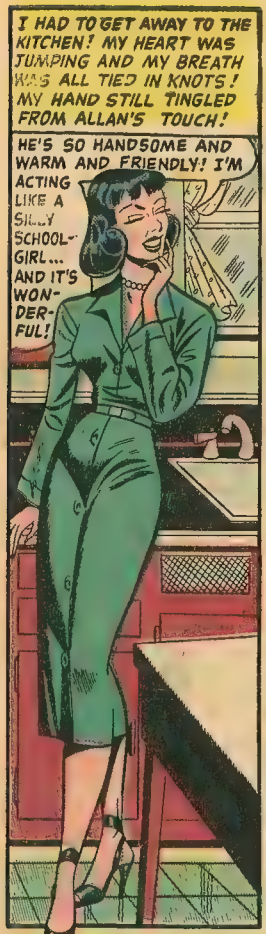

UNCLE BEN PROSPERED! WE BOUGHT A LITTLE BUNGALOW AND I GOT A JOB! IT WAS HEAVEN TO BE ABLE TO HOLD MY HEAD UP AMONG PEOPLE!
THANKS FOR THE LIFT HOME!
NO TROUBLE AT ALL, ELNA! WE'LL PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT IN THE MORNING!

I RAN INTO THE HOUSE AND STOPPED SHORT, STARING AT A STRANGER!
I'M HOME, UNCLE BEN! WHERE ARE... ULP!
COME IN, ELNA! I WANT YOU TO MEET A...ER...SORT OF CUSTOMER OF MINE! HE WAS LONESOME SO I INVITED HIM TO DINNER!

ALLAN SHAW... MY NIECE, ELNA BRENT! BEST DAWGGONE COOK AND PRETTIEST GIRL IN THE WHOLE STATE!
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THE FIRST PART, BEN! THE REST I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF! HELLO, ELNA!

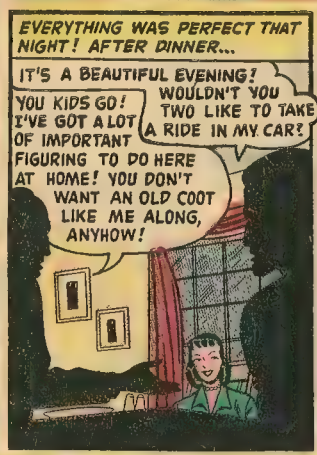
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY BARGING IN LIKE THIS!
OF COURSE NOT! I THINK IT'S GRAND HAVING COMPANY DROP IN! IT TAKES AWAY THAT FEELING OF BEING STRANGERS IN TOWN!
3

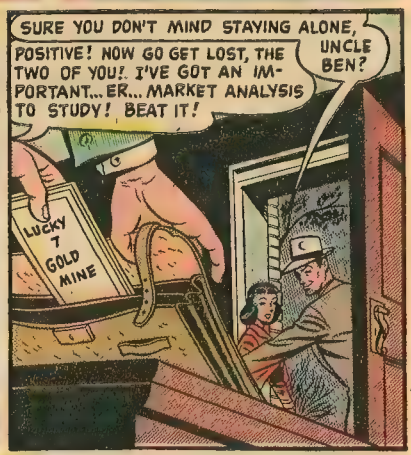

IF AN ANGEL LIKE YOU CAN FEEL LIKE A STRANGER HERE, THIS TOWN NEEDS A GOOD WORKING OVER! NEED ANY HELP?
NO, THANKS! YOU TWO SIT HERE AND WORK UP AN APPETITE WHILE I SEE WHAT THE MENU WILL BE!

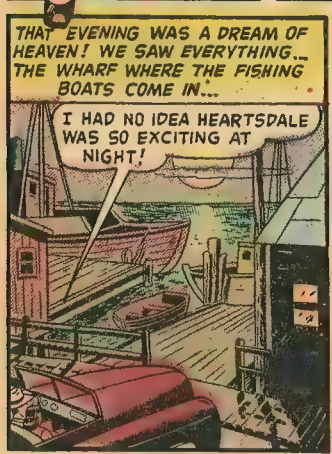

I HAD TO GET AWAY TO THE KITCHEN! MY HEART WAS JUMPING AND MY BREATH WAS ALL TIED IN KNOTS! MY HAND STILL TINGLED FROM ALLAN'S TOUCH!
HE'S SO HANDSOME AND WARM AND FRIENDLY! I'M ACTING LIKE A SILLY SCHOOL-GIRL... AND IT'S WONDERFUL!

IS IT SAFE TO COME OUT...OR DO YOU WANT TO CROWN ME FOR DRAGGING IN A GUEST WITHOUT WARNING?
DON'T LOOK SO INNOCENT, BEN BRENT! YOU'RE TOO OLD TO PLAY UNCLE 'CUPID! SO YOU THOUGHT I SHOULD MEET A MAN, DID YOU?

I'LL CROWN YOU...WITH A KISS, YOU FAKER! HE'S A DREAM! NOW GO ENTERTAIN HIM WHILE I TRY TO PROVE YOUR LIES ABOUT MY COOKING!
HEH-HEH! I THOUGHT YOU TWO WOULD HIT IT OFF! ALLAN'S A GRAND BOY! SMART, TOO!

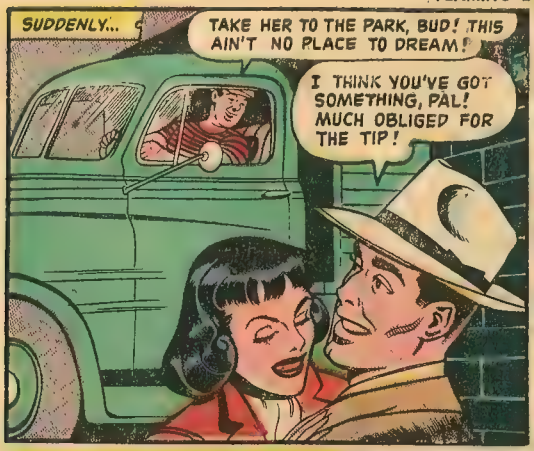

EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT THAT NIGHT! AFTER DINNER...
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL EVENING! WOULDN'T YOU TWO LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE IN MY CAR?
YOU KIDS GO! I'VE GOT A LOT OF IMPORTANT FIGURING TO DO HERE AT HOME! YOU DON'T WANT AN OLD COOT LIKE ME ALONG, ANYHOW!


SURE YOU DON'T MIND STAYING ALONE, UNCLE BEN?
POSITIVE! NOW GO GET LOST, THE TWO OF YOU! I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT...ER...MARKET ANALYSIS TO STUDY! BEAT IT!
LUCKY 7 GOLD MINE


THAT EVENING WAS A DREAM OF HEAVEN! WE SAW EVERYTHING... THE WHARF WHERE THE FISHING BOATS COME IN...
I HAD NO IDEA HEARTSDALE WAS SO EXCITING AT NIGHT!

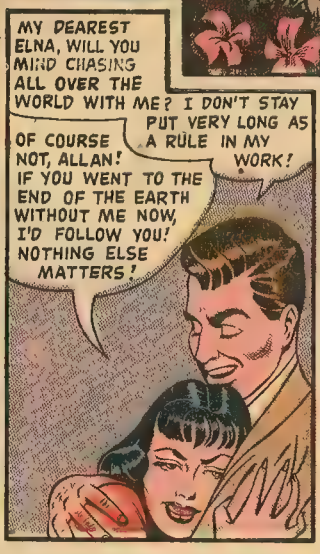
...THE CITY MARKET GETTING READY TO OPEN AT DAWN!
IT'S FASCINATING, ALLAN! HOW DID YOU DISCOVER ALL THIS NIGHT LIFE?
WHEN YOU'RE LONELY, ELNA, YOU HATE TO SIT IN A DINGY ROOM! I SPENT MANY A NIGHT JUST WALKING AND LOOKING AND... WISHING!
CITY MARKET

...WISHING FOR SOMEONE LOVELY AND UNDERSTANDING TO SHARE THESE DISCOVERIES WITH! AND AT LAST I FOUND YOU!
OH, ALLAN...


SUDDENLY...
TAKE HER TO THE PARK, BUD! THIS AIN'T NO PLACE TO DREAM!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING, PAL! MUCH OBLIGED FOR THE TIP!

WE DROVE TO THE PARK! THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LONELY LIFE, I HEARD THE WORDS THAT ARE MUSIC AND NECTAR TO A GIRL'S HEART!
ELNA, DARLING! MAYBE IT'S CRAZY, HAPPENING SO FAST, BUT IT'S HAPPENED! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! I WANT TO MARRY YOU!
OH, ALLAN, ALLAN, IF IT'S CRAZY, THEN I'M CRAZY, TOO! I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE SEEING THE WORLD WITH YOU!

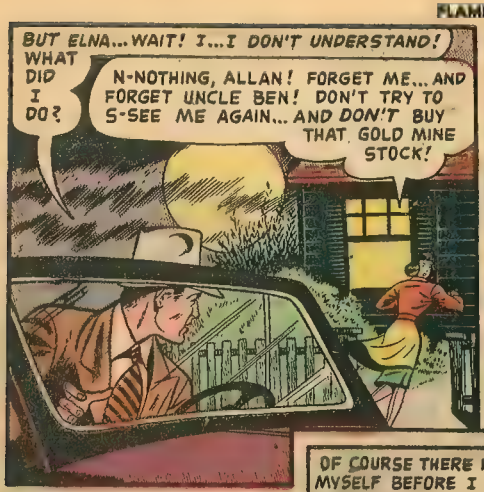
MINE AT LAST... THE ECSTASY OF FIRST LOVE, FIRST KISS... THE SWEET JOY OF BEING WANTED... THE WILD, SHAKING RHYTHM OF A HEART GONE MAD!

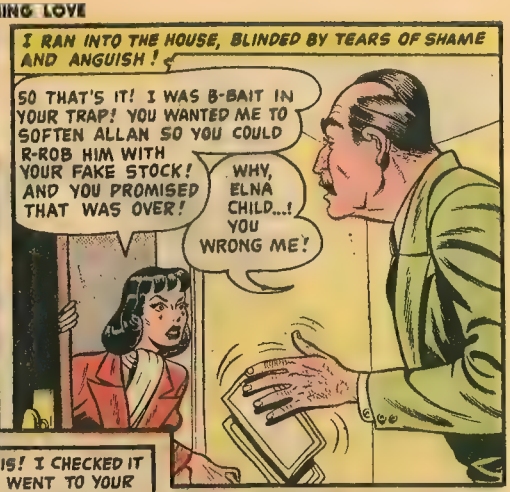

MY DEAREST ELNA, WILL YOU MIND CHASING ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH ME? I DON'T STAY PUT VERY LONG AS A RULE IN MY WORK!
OF COURSE NOT, ALLAN! IF YOU WENT TO THE END OF THE EARTH WITHOUT ME NOW, I'D FOLLOW YOU! NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!

IT IS CRAZY, ALLAN! HERE I'M SAYING YES AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOUR WORK IS!
LATELY I'VE BEEN DOING LABORATORY WORK HERE, PERFECTING A PROCESS I DEVELOPED, BUT THAT'S FINISHED NOW!

BY PROFESSION, HONEY, I'M A MINING ENGINEER! GOLD MINES ARE MY PARTICULAR SPECIALTY...
GOLD MINES! OH, NO! UNCLE BEN ISN'T TRYING TO SELL YOU GOLD MINE STOCK, IS HE?

ALLAN, TAKE ME HOME QUICKLY! DON'T ASK QUESTIONS... JUST TAKE ME HOME!
WHY, YES! AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'RE CLOSING THE DEAL TOMORROW! I'M BUYING OUT HIS LUCKY 7 GOLD MINE, LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL! WHY?
IN ONE MOMENT OF TERRIBLE DESPAIR I SAW MY PARADISE CRUMBLE INTO THE RUINS OF UNCLE BEN'S FAKE GOLD MINE STOCK... THE STOCK HE COULD NEVER RESIST!

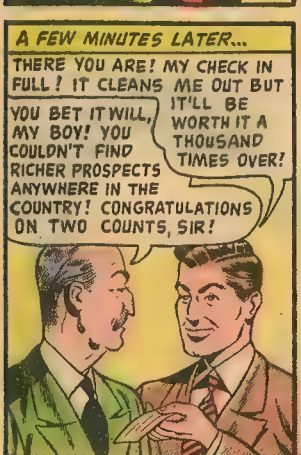

BUT ELNA...WAIT! I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT DID I DO?
N-NOTHING, ALLAN! FORGET ME...AND FORGET UNCLE BEN! DON'T TRY TO S-SEE ME AGAIN...AND DON'T BUY THAT GOLD MINE STOCK!

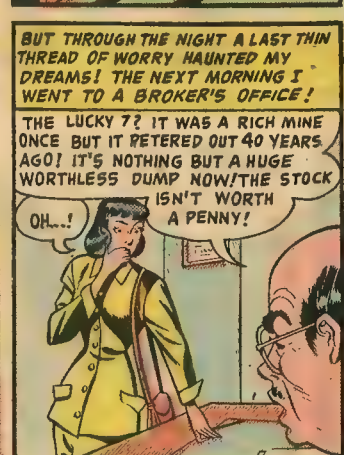

I RAN INTO THE HOUSE, BLINDED BY TEARS OF SHAME AND ANGUISH!
SO THAT'S IT! I WAS B-BAIT IN YOUR TRAP! YOU WANTED ME TO SOFTEN ALLAN SO YOU COULD R-ROB HIM WITH YOUR FAKE STOCK! AND YOU PROMISED THAT WAS OVER!
WHY, ELNA CHILD...! YOU WRONG ME!

D-DON'T TOUCH ME! I'M G-GOING AWAY WHERE I'LL NEVER S-SEE YOU OR ALLAN AGAIN!
BUT HONEY, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS ISN'T FAKE STOCK! THERE'S A REAL LUCKY SEVEN MINE AND I OWN IT! I BOUGHT IT WITH MY MONEY!

OF COURSE THERE IS! I CHECKED IT MYSELF BEFORE I WENT TO YOUR UNCLE, ELNA! I'LL CLOSE THE DEAL RIGHT NOW, IN FACT!
ALLAN! YOU WERE LISTENING! YOU HEARD EVERYTHING...!

I HEARD NOTHING, DEAREST, BUT THE CRYING OF MY OWN HEART! I'VE BEEN LONELY TOO LONG TO LET YOU RUN OUT OF MY LIFE NOW!
ALLAN, MY DARLING! WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ENDED I WANTED TO DIE!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
THERE YOU ARE! MY CHECK IN FULL! IT CLEANS ME OUT BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT A THOUSAND TIMES OVER!
YOU BET IT WILL, MY BOY! YOU COULDN'T FIND RICHER PROSPECTS ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY! CONGRATULATIONS ON TWO COUNTS, SIR!


BUT THROUGH THE NIGHT A LAST THIN THREAD OF WORRY HAUNTED MY DREAMS! THE NEXT MORNING I WENT TO A BROKER'S OFFICE!
THE LUCKY 7? IT WAS A RICH MINE ONCE BUT IT PETERED OUT 40 YEARS AGO! IT'S NOTHING BUT A HUGE WORTHLESS DUMP NOW! THE STOCK ISN'T WORTH A PENNY!
OH...!

UNCLE BEN TRICKED ME...AND CHEATED ALLAN OUT OF ALL HIS SAVINGS! WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO BELIEVE HIM LAST NIGHT! HE'LL NEVER CHANGE!

I STUMBLED DOWN THE STREET, MY HEART TORN ON THE RACK OF INDECISION!
IF I GO TO THE POLICE QUICKLY, THEY'LL GET ALLAN'S MONEY BACK AND SAVE HIM FROM DISASTER!

BUT I LOVE UNCLE BEN, WHATEVER HE IS! HE'S BEEN A FATHER TO ME! I CAN'T SEND HIM TO PRISON NOW! I CAN'T!

THEN, OUT OF MY ANGUISH AND TORMENT, CAME THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION...
I'LL TELL THE POLICE
POLICE IT WAS MY PLAN TO ROB ALLAN! THEN M-MAYBE THEY'LL G-GO EASY ON UNCLE BEN AND ALLAN WILL GET HIS MONEY!
ELNA...WAIT! I'VE BEEN HUNTING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

LET ME GO! DON'T TOUCH ME! I'M A THIEF AND A CHEAT! THAT MINE IS N-NOTHING BUT WORTHLESS ROCK! I'M GOING TO CONFESS!
POOR, TWISTED LITTLE ELNA! COME HERE AND LISTEN TO SOME FACTS, HONEY!

I KNOW THE LUCKY 7 IS JUST A DUMP, DARLING! I WANT A DUMP! MY NEW PROCESS WILL EXTRACT A FORTUNE IN GOLD FROM THOSE "WORTHLESS" TAILINGS! THAT'S WHY I BOUGHT IT!

I ONLY KNOW I LOVE YOU, DARLING...AND IF YOU DON'T STOP BABBLING NONSENSE AND KISS ME QUICKLY, I'LL SPANK YOU RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF THE POLICE STATION! PUCKER UP!

AS FOR UNCLE BEN, DARLING...I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM, TOO! MINING ENGINEERS HAVE WAYS OF FINDING OUT ABOUT STOCKS! I ADMIRE HIS REFORMATION!
THEN...THEN... YOU KNOW I HELPED UNCLE BEN FLEE FROM THE LAW, AND I LIVED ON WHAT HE STOLE! I'M GUILTY, TOO!

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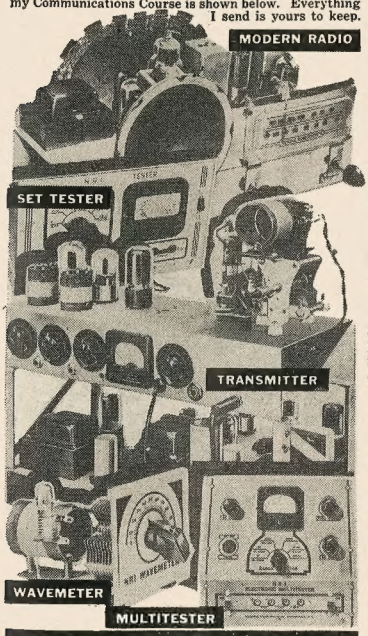

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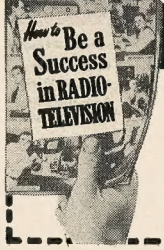

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